

# Washington County, Idaho, Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan

## Appendices

June 28, 2004



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### ***Fire Mitigation Plan Mission Statement***

*To make Washington County residents, communities, state agencies, local governments, and businesses less vulnerable to the negative effects of wildland fires through the effective administration of wildfire hazard mitigation grant programs, hazard risk assessments, wise and efficient fuels treatments, and a coordinated approach to mitigation policy through federal, state, regional, and local planning efforts. Our combined prioritization will be the protection of people, structures, infrastructure, and unique ecosystems that contribute to our way of life and the sustainability of the local and regional economy.*

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This plan developed by the Washington County Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan Committee in cooperation with Northwest Management, Inc., 233 E. Palouse River Dr., P.O. Box 9748, Moscow, ID, 83843, Tel: 208-883-4488, [www.Consulting-Foresters.com](http://www.Consulting-Foresters.com)

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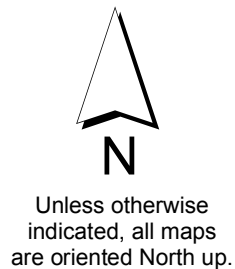
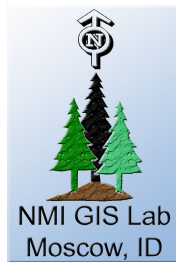


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## Appendix I: Maps

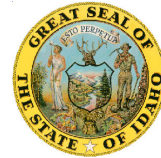
### Map Legend

Map Created by:  
Northwest Management, Inc.  
Geographical Information Systems Laboratory  
233 E. Palouse River Dr.  
PO Box 9748  
Moscow ID 83843  
Tel: 208-883-4488  
[www.Consulting-Foresters.com](http://www.Consulting-Foresters.com)  
(C) February 2004



#### National Fire Plan Efforts in this Region

National Fire Plan analysis was conducted by the Northwest Management, Inc., Geographical Information Systems Laboratory located in Moscow, Idaho. This project was implemented with the West Central Highlands RC&D, participating Counties & Cities, fire districts, and local citizens. Cooperation, and data was provided in collaboration with the US Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management, the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and the Idaho Department of Lands.



Idaho Department  
of Lands



West Central Highlands  
Resource Conservation  
& Development Council



USDA  
Forest Service



USDI  
Bureau of Land Management



NMI GIS Lab  
Moscow, ID

## Northwest Management, Inc. Geographical Information Systems Laboratory

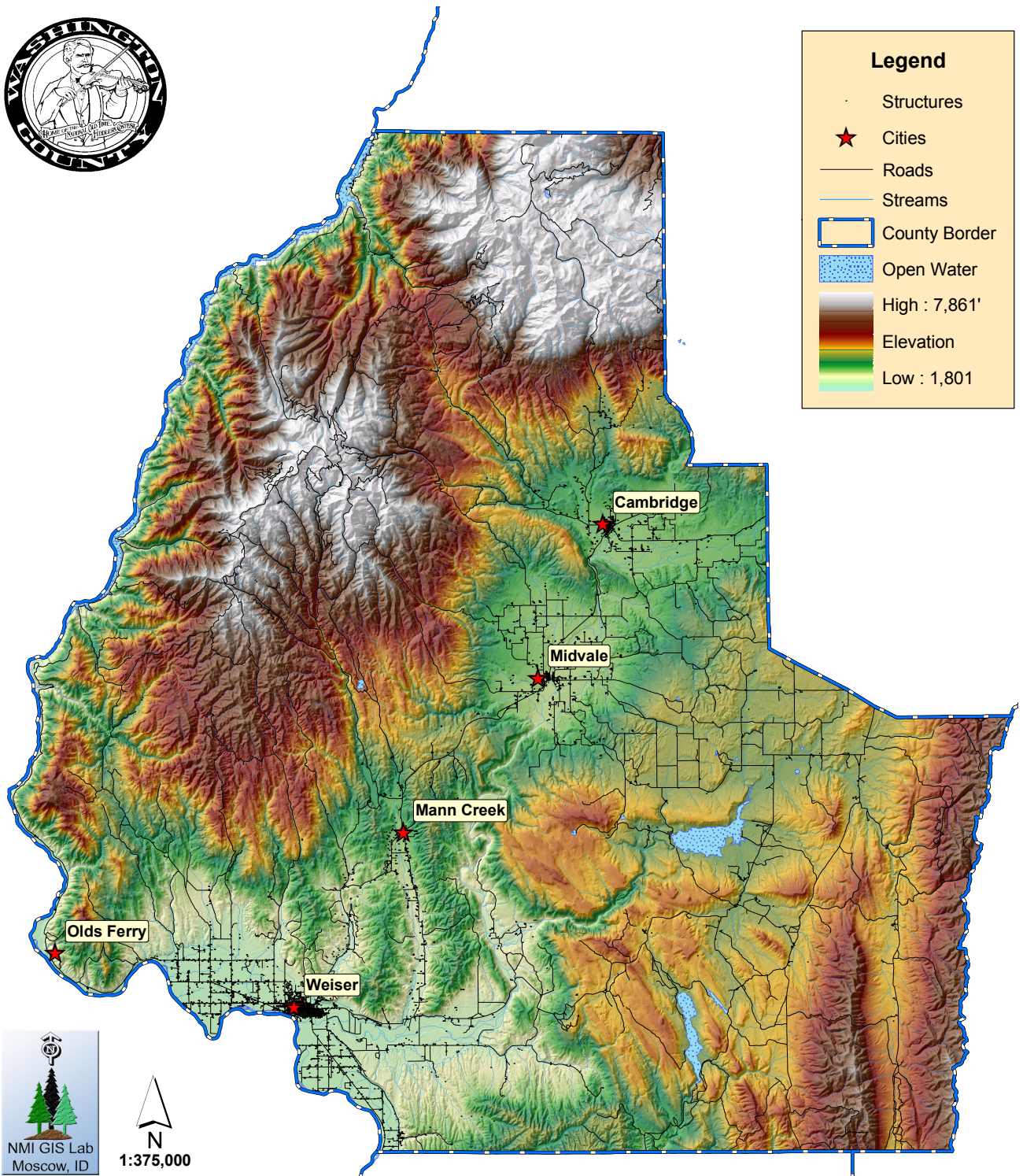
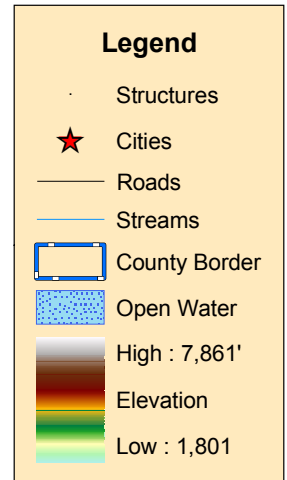
233 East Palouse River Dr., P.O. Box 9748, Moscow, ID 83843 [www.Consulting-Foresters.com](http://www.Consulting-Foresters.com)

The information on the attached maps was derived from digital databases from NMI's GIS lab. Care was taken in the creation of these maps, but all maps are provided "as is" with no warranty or guarantees. Northwest Management, Inc., cannot accept any responsibility for any errors, omissions, or positional accuracy, and therefore, there are no warranties with accompany this product. Although information from Land Surveys may have been used in the creation of this product, in no way does this product represent or constitute a Land Survey. Users are cautioned to field verify information on this product before making any decisions.

# Washington County Shaded Relief (Elevation)

Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
Washington County

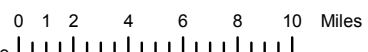
Hillshade Relief  
(Elevation)



1:375,000

1 inch equals 5.9 miles

Map scale may distort during printing,  
use this relative scale bar for absolute reference.

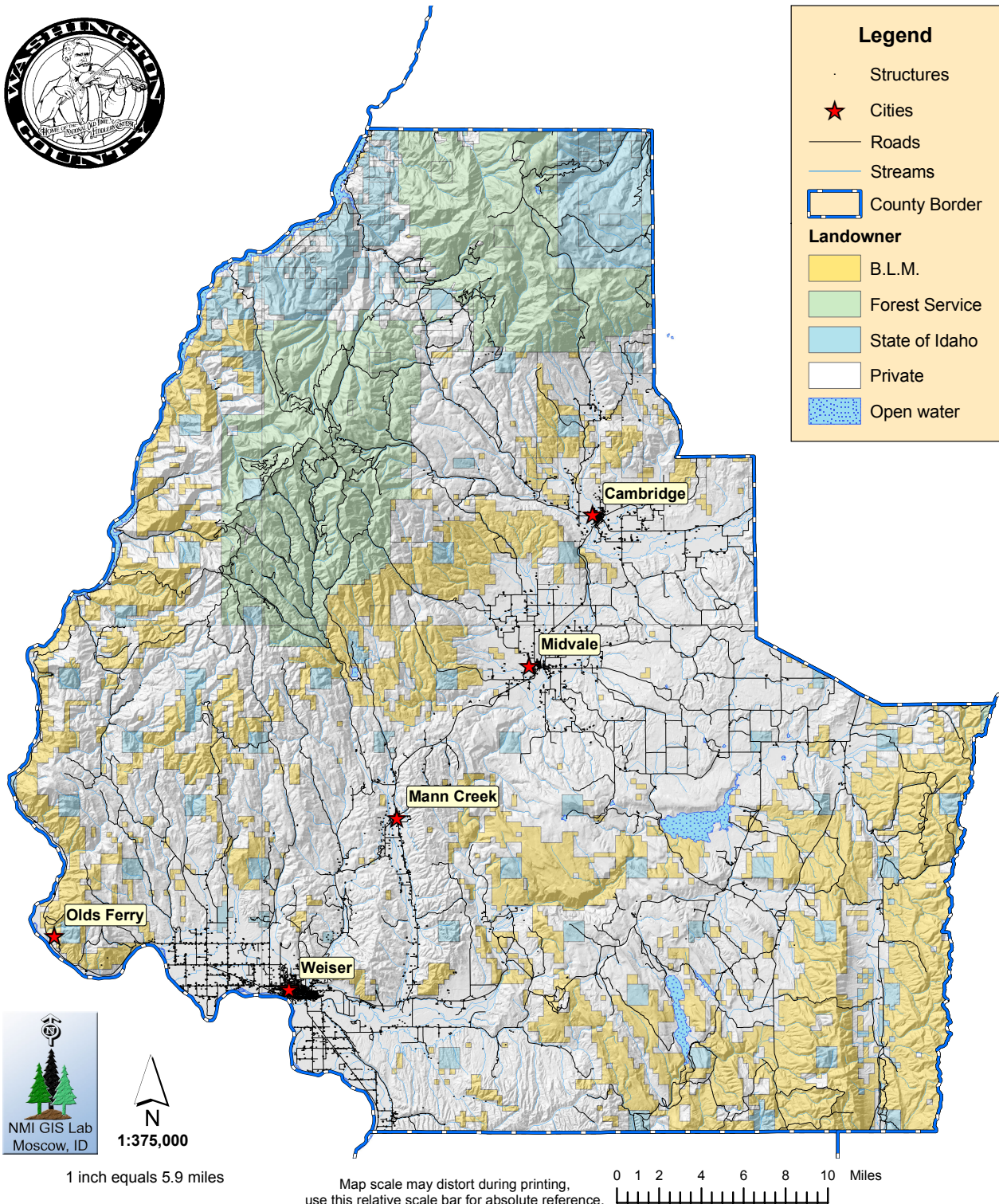




# Washington County Ownership Map

Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
Washington County

## Land Ownership



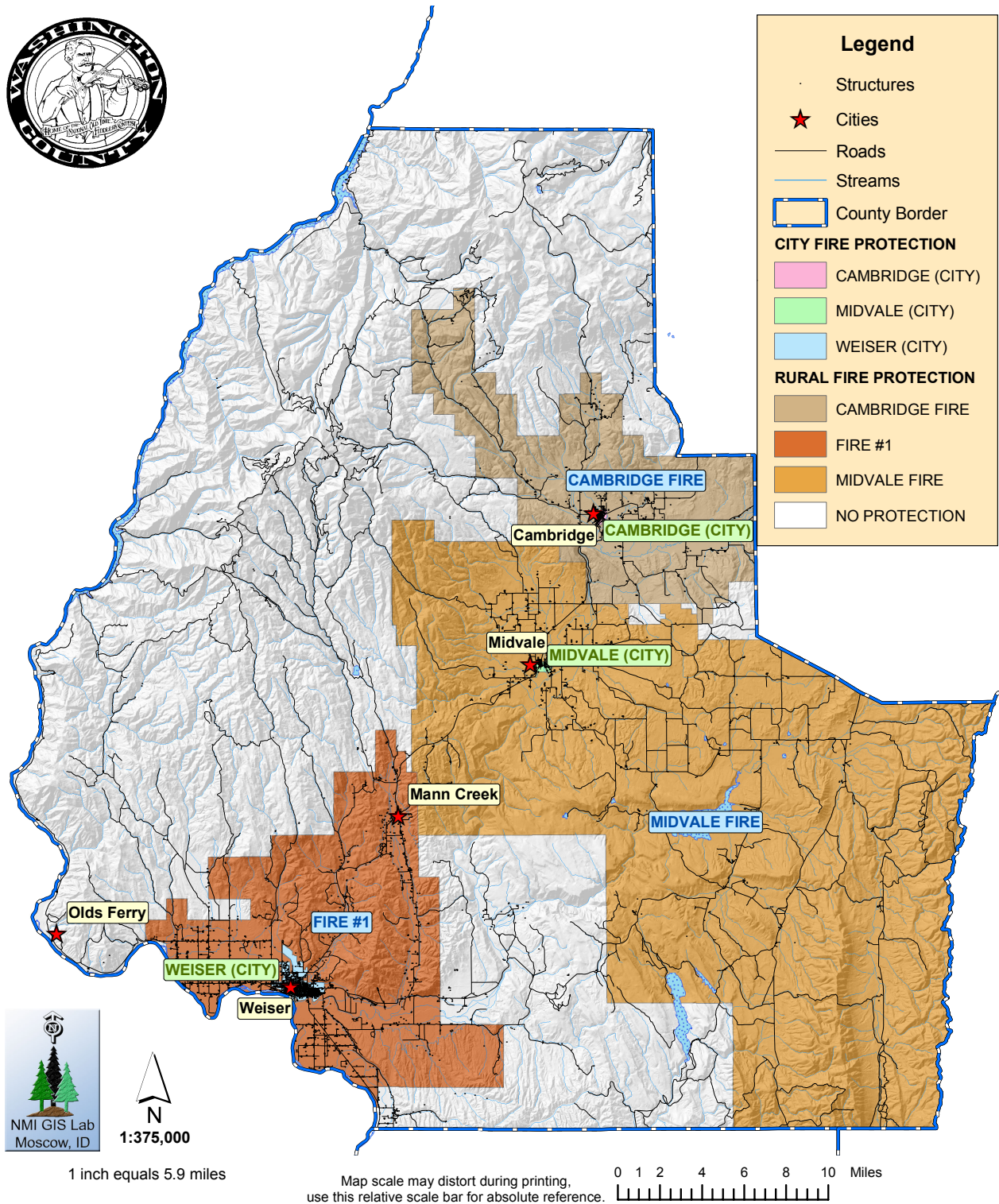


# Fire Protection Districts

Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
Washington County



## Fire Protection Districts

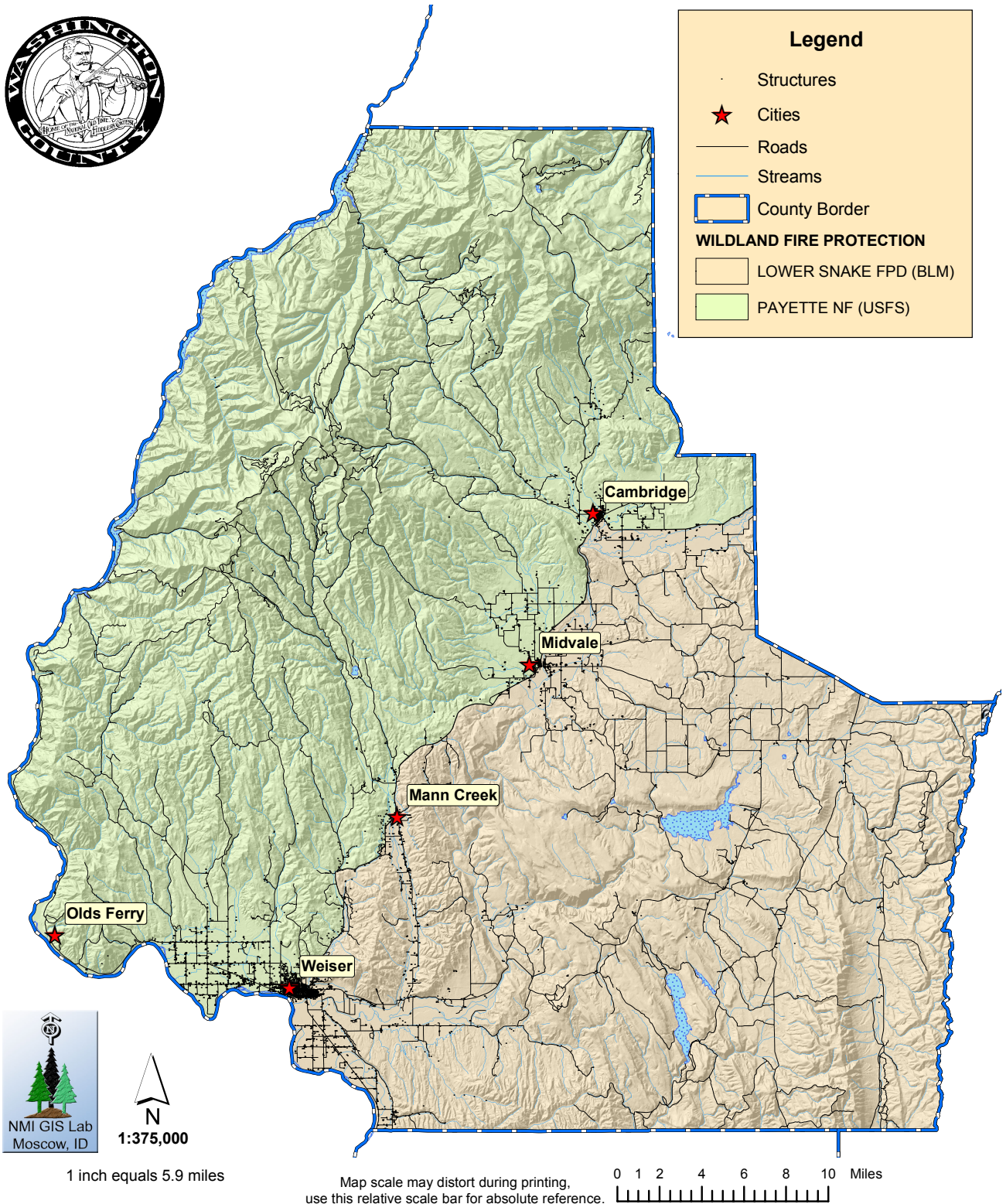




# Wildland Fire Protection Areas

Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
Washington County

## Wildfire Protection

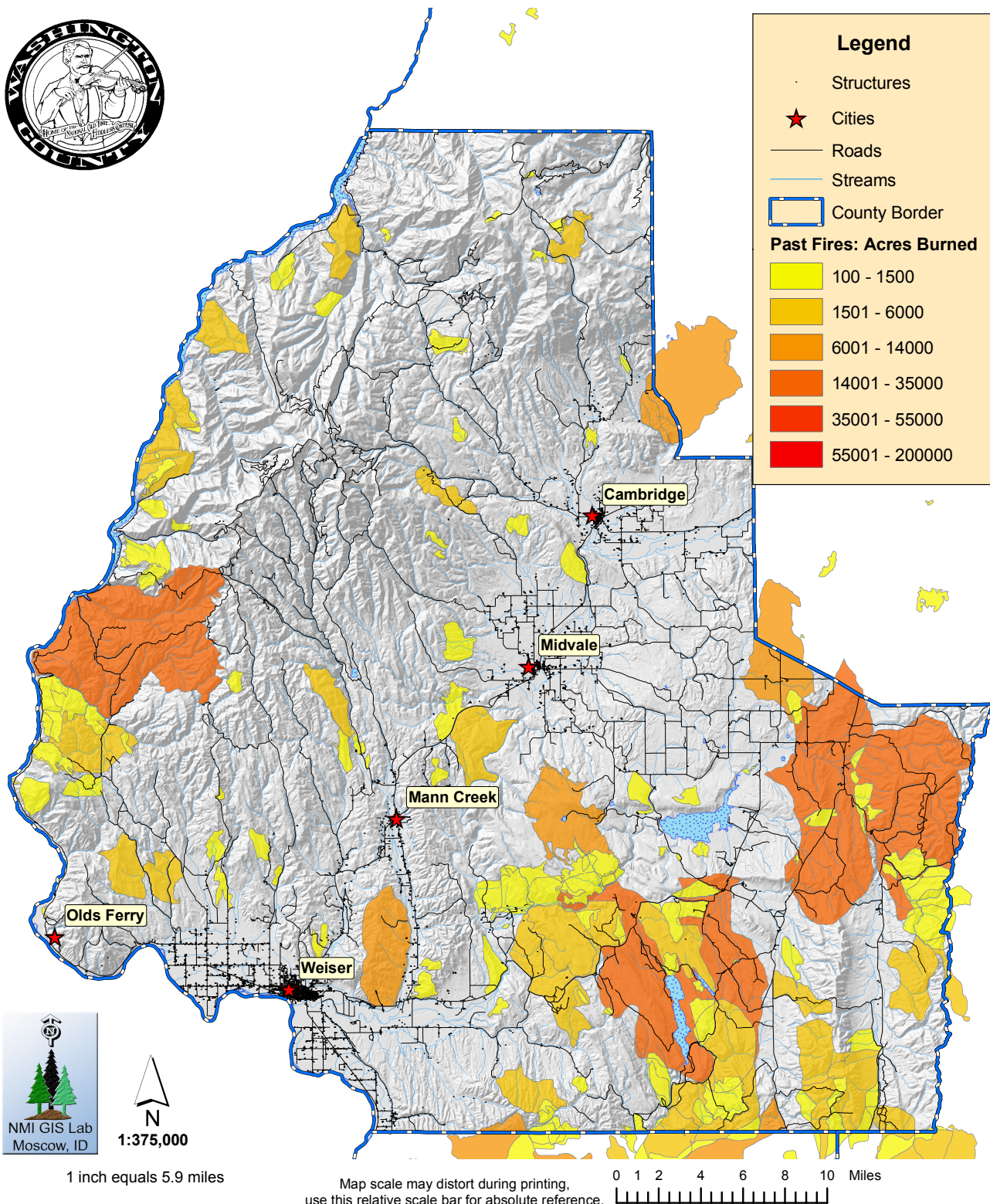




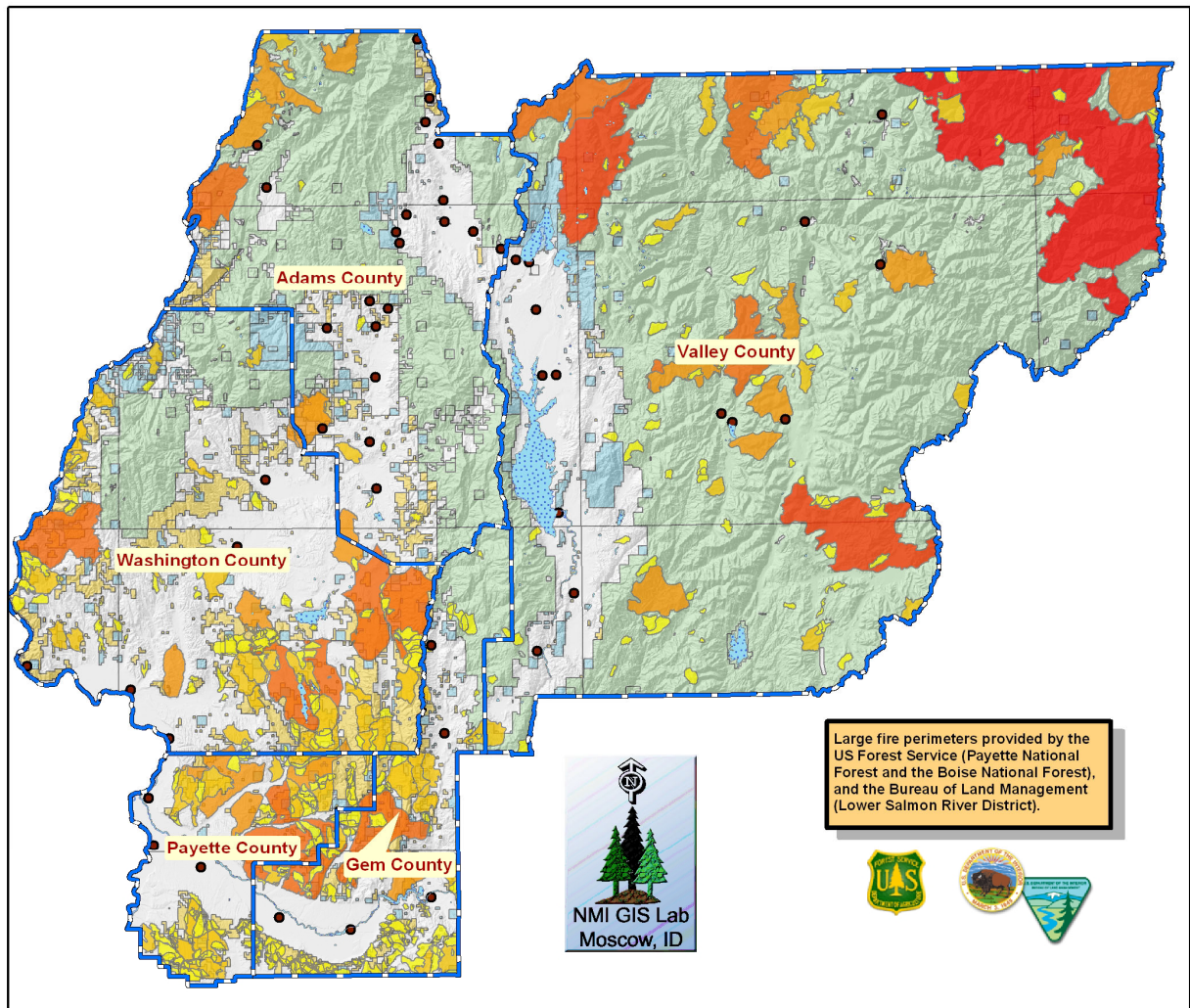
# Past Fires in Washington County: Post WWII

Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
Washington County

## Past "Large" Fires



## Past Fires in Region: Post WWII



1:1,100,000  
1 inch equals 17.4 miles

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 Miles

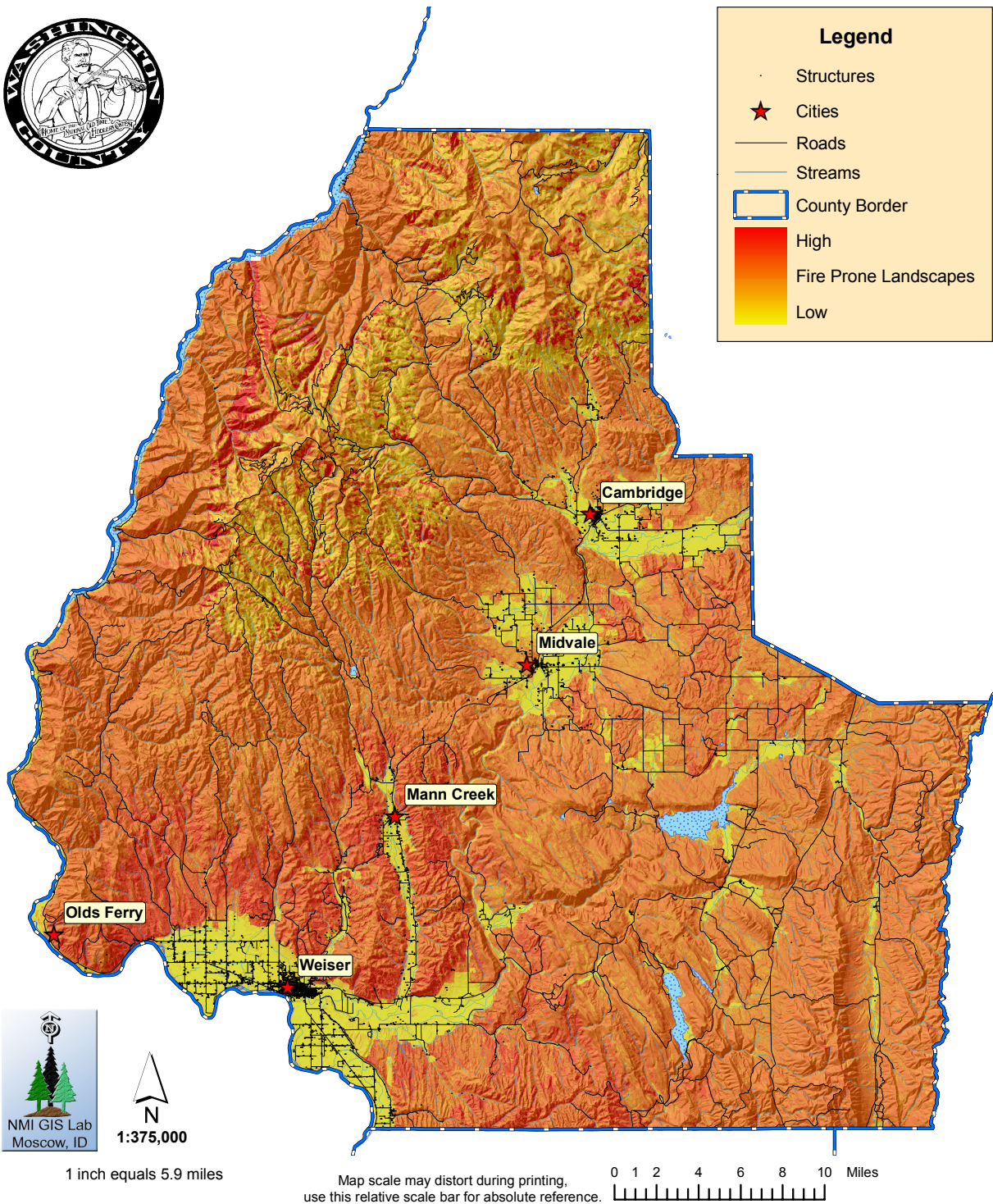
Map scale may distort during printing  
use the relative scale bar for absolute reference.



# Fire Prone Landscapes in Washington County

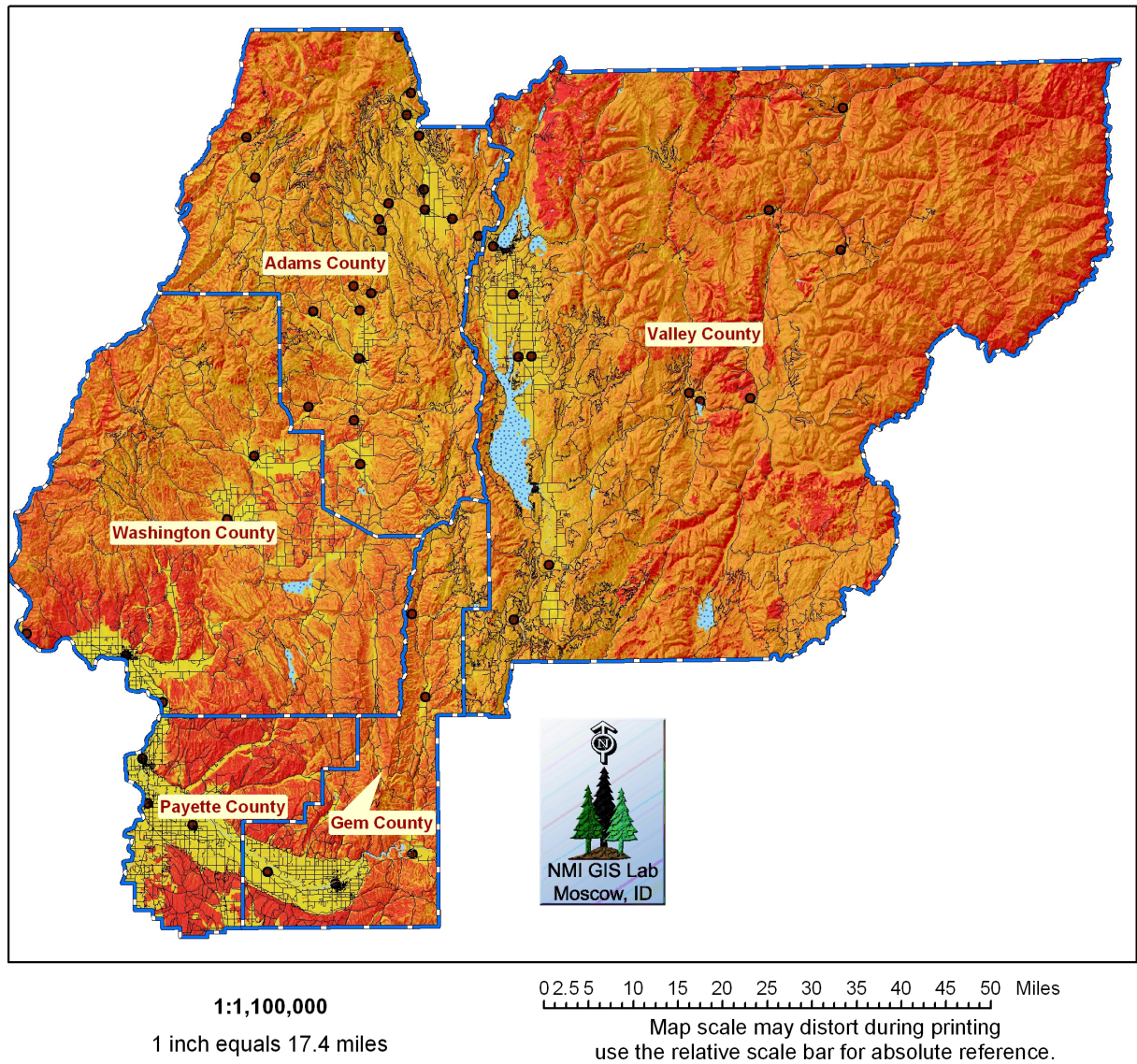
Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
Washington County

## Fire Prone Landscapes





## Fire Prone Landscapes in Region





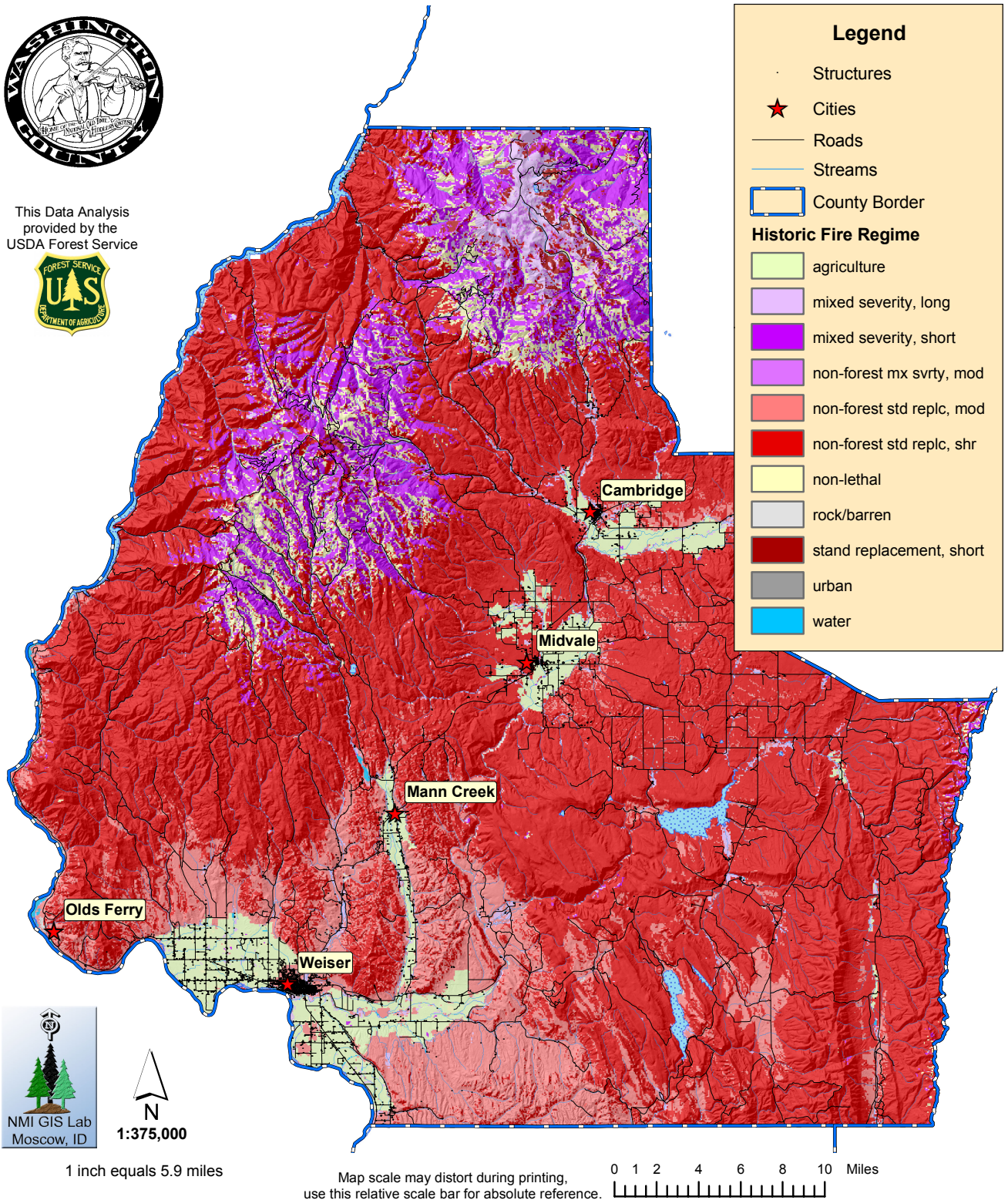
# Historic Fire Regime

Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
Washington County

## Historic Fire Regime



This Data Analysis  
provided by the  
USDA Forest Service





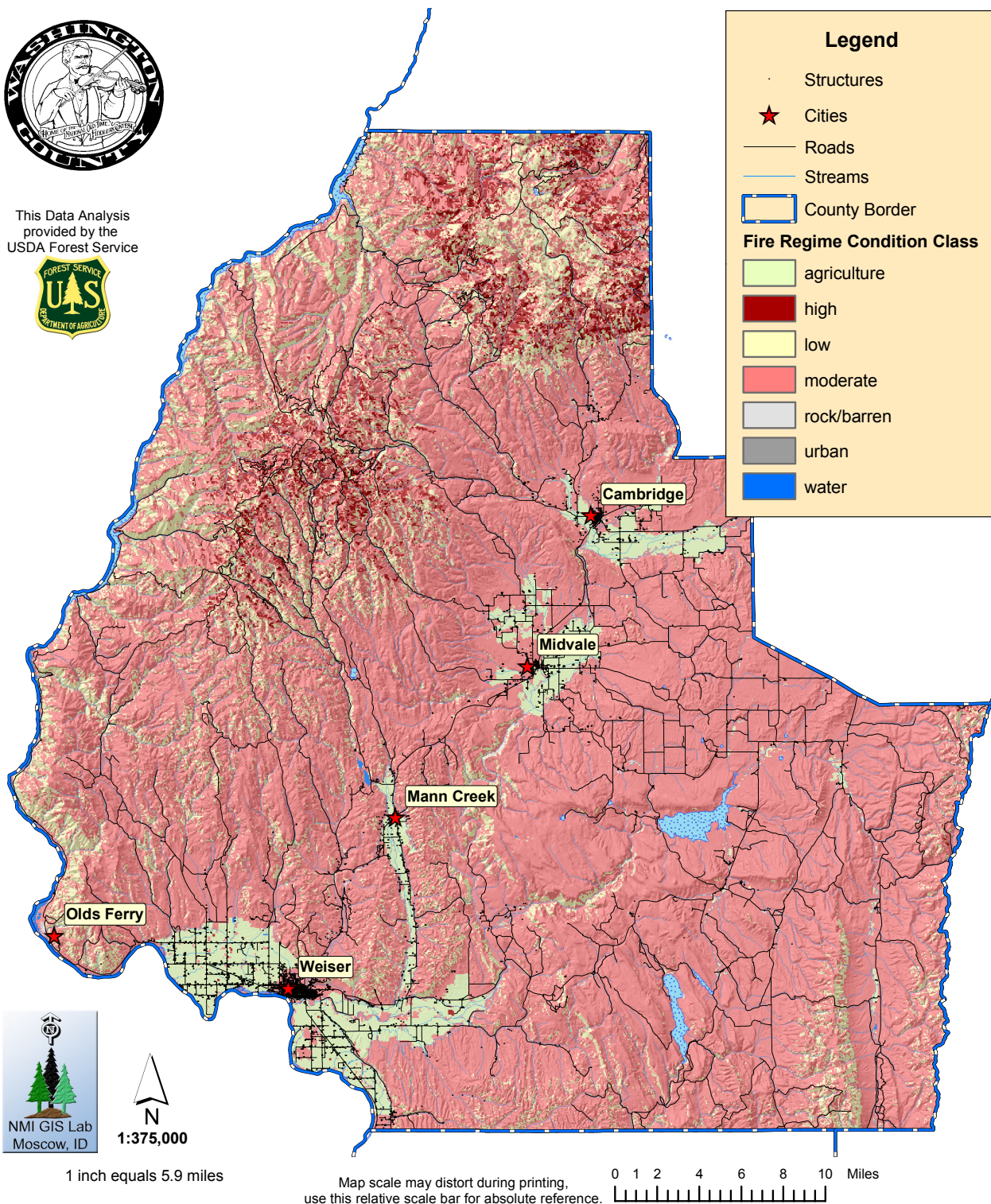
# Fire Regime Condition Class

Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
Washington County

## Fire Regime Condition Class



This Data Analysis  
provided by the  
USDA Forest Service





# Current Fire Severity

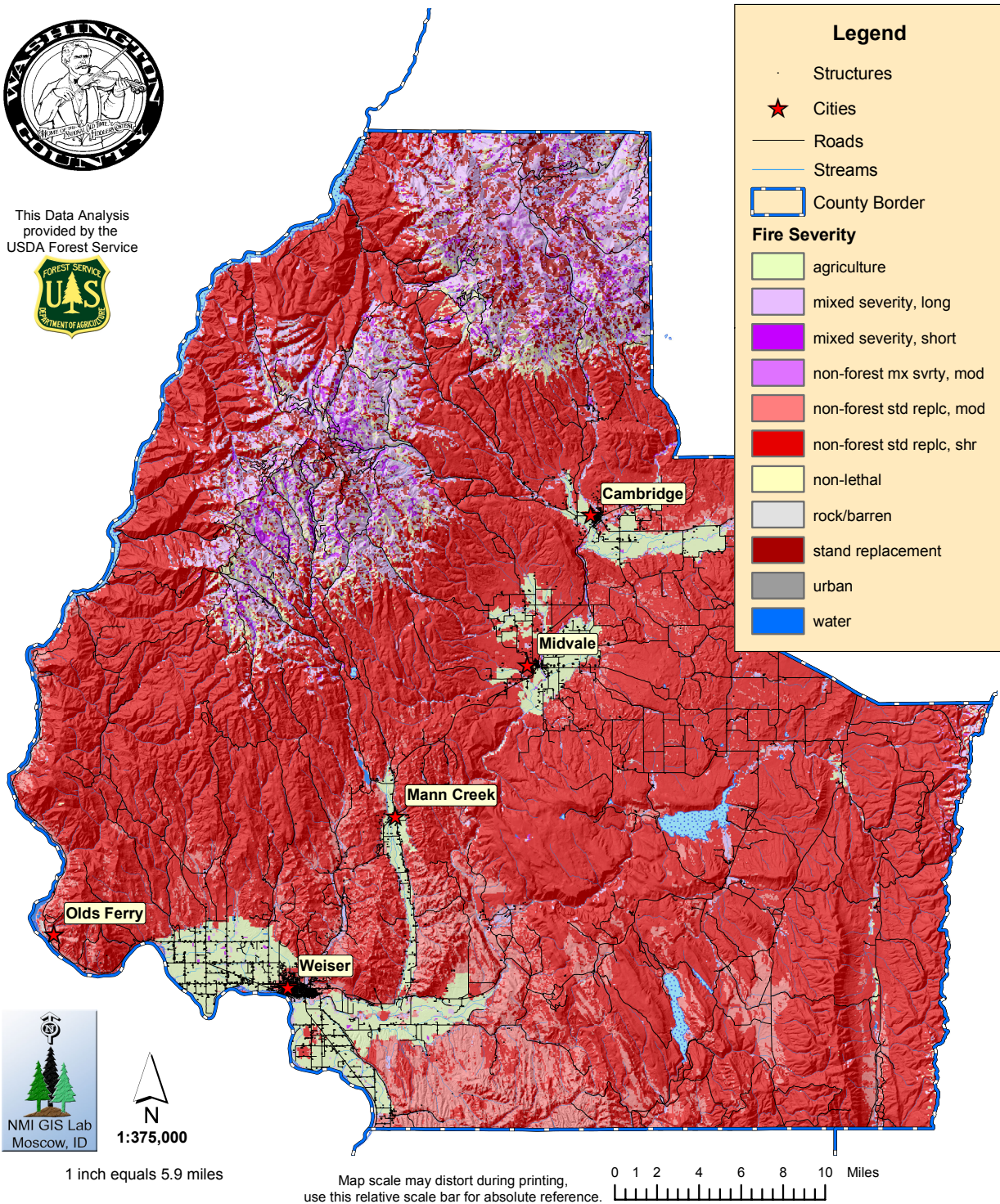
Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
Washington County



This Data Analysis  
provided by the  
USDA Forest Service



## Current Fire Severity

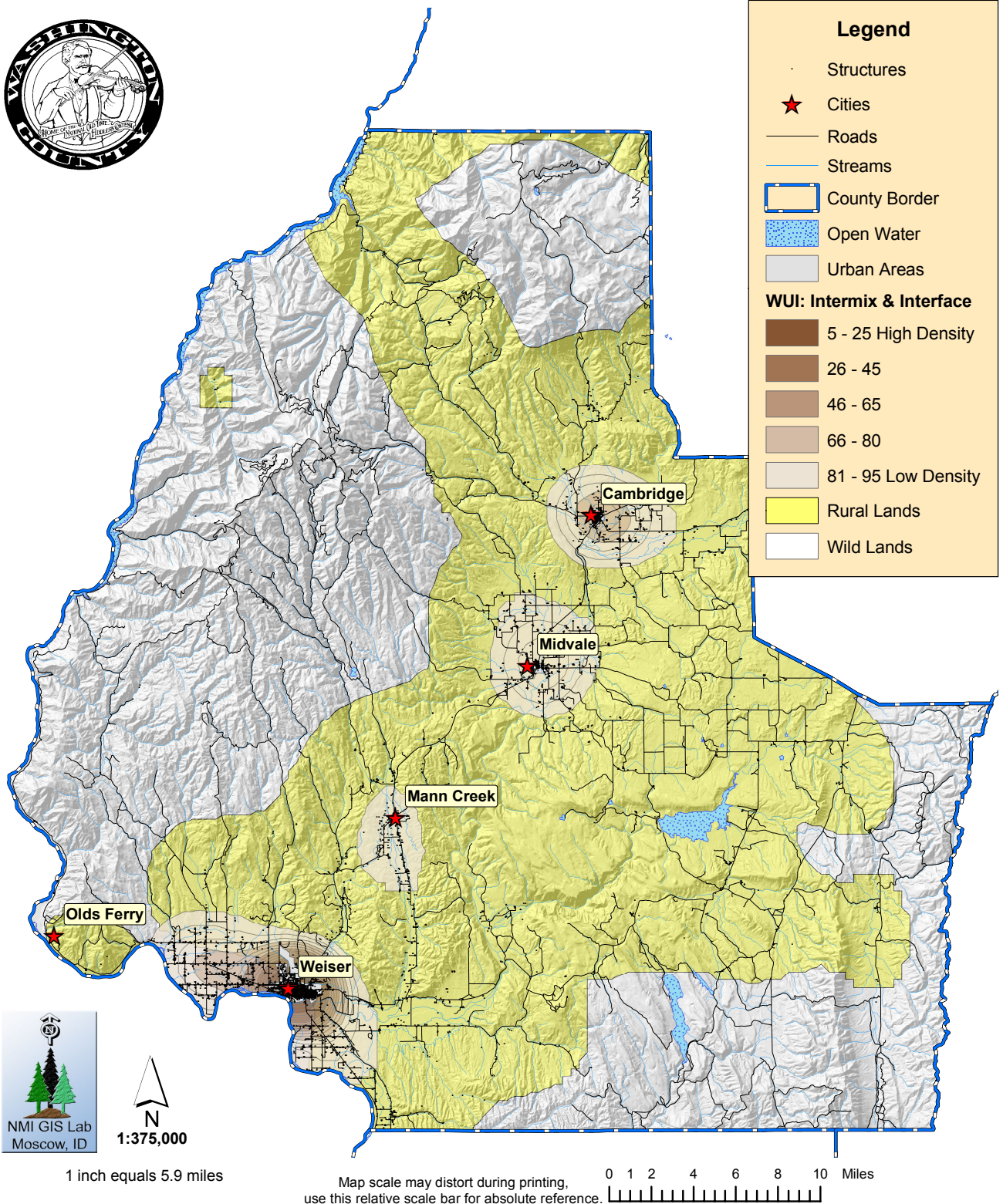




# Wildland-Urban Interface as derived from structure density

Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
Washington County

## Wildland-Urban Interface

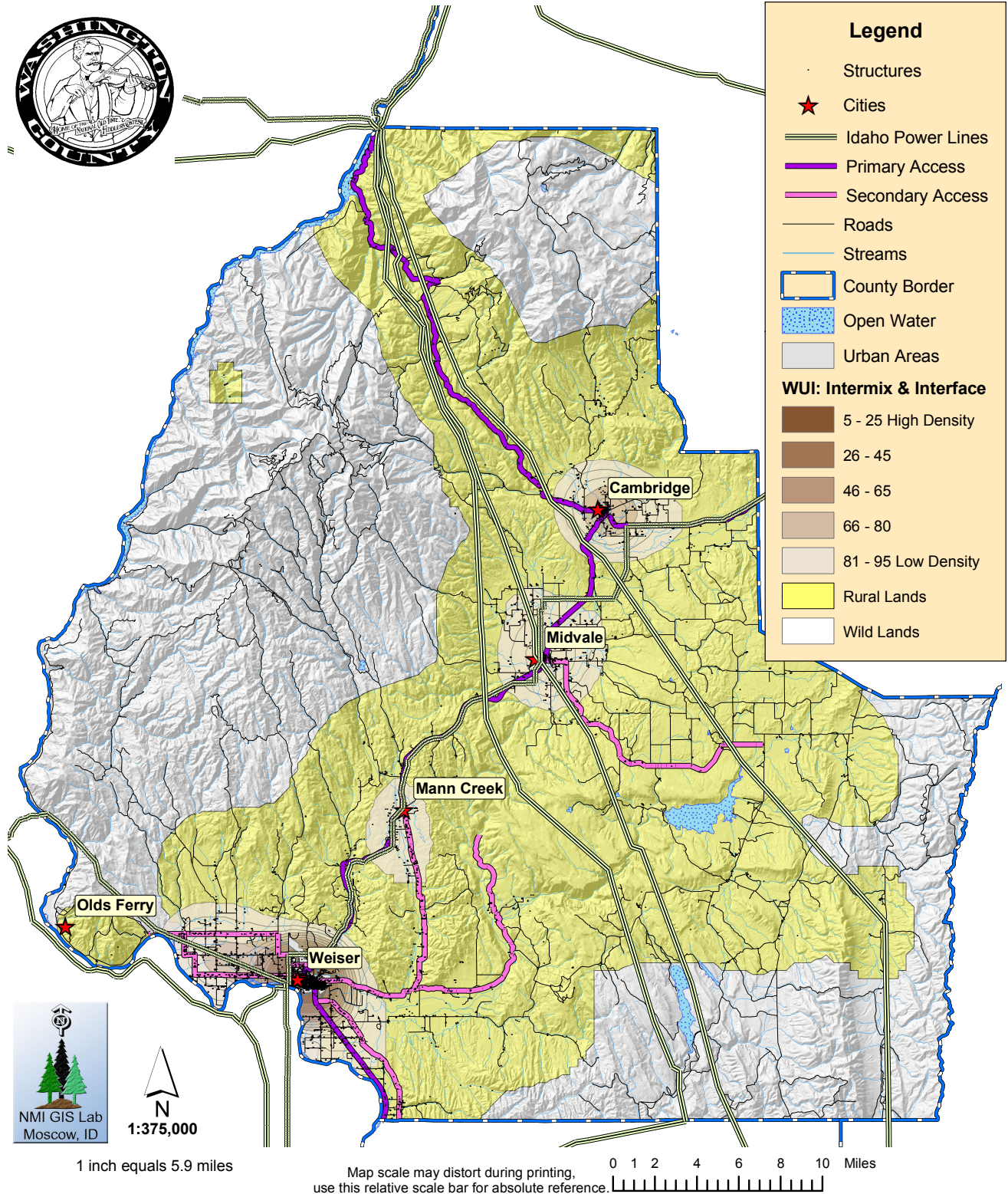




# WUI & Infrastructure Components At-Risk in Washington County

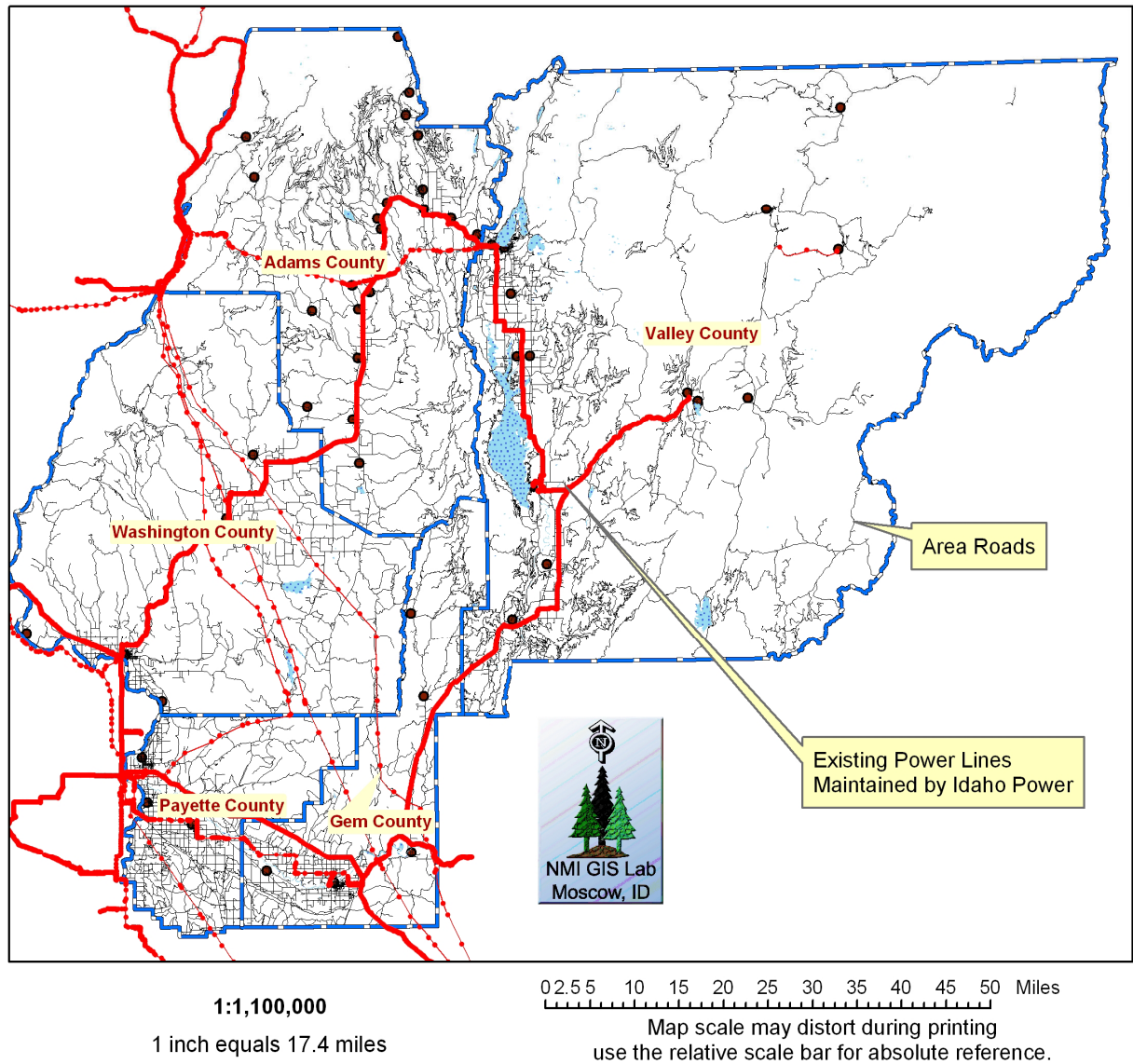
Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan  
Washington County

Wildland-Urban Interface  
& Significant Infrastructure





## Infrastructure components at risk in West Central Highlands Area



## Appendix II

### FEMA's Potential Fire Hazard Severity Forms

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has developed a number of guides and procedures to assist communities, counties, and states with assessing risk for a variety of natural hazards, including wildfire. One approach that FEMA recommends is to assess communities using a variety of standardized evaluation criteria. The forms on the following pages detail the assessments completed for a variety of communities within Adams County using these standardized forms and their criteria.

The first evaluation completed for these communities is the **Fire Hazard Severity** determination. This form uses a variety of criteria in order to make a categorical ranking for each community. The Fire Hazard Severity Table (below) determines fire hazard severity based on the standard FEMA uses to compare (for example) Washington County, Idaho, with another county in Idaho, or any other state. Communities may have more than one classification depending on the degrees of the slope and fuel models. For example, if someone were to observe an average of five critical fire weather days per year in a given area, observe heavy fuel, and less than 40° slopes, then that community is in a high fire hazard area. If the average number of days of critical fire weather per year increases above eight, that community would be in an extreme fire hazard area. The table is subjective, but allows comparisons between communities.

#### Fire Hazard Severity

Fuel Classification	Critical Fire Weather Frequency								
	< 1 Day/Year			2 to 7 Days/Year			> 8 Days/Year		
	Slope (%)			Slope (%)			Slope (%)		
	< 40	41-60	> 61	< 40	41-60	> 61	< 40	41-60	> 61
Light Fuel	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	H
Medium Fuel	M	M	H	H	H	H	E	E	E
Heavy Fuel	H	H	H	H	E	E	E	E	E

Source: *Urban Wildland Interface Code: 2000*

M = Moderate hazard    H = High hazard    E = Extreme hazard



(from FEMA's "Understanding Your Risks; identifying hazards and estimating losses", August 2001, FEMA 386-2) State and local mitigation planning how-to-guide.)

Critical Fire Weather Frequency (CFWF) is not recorded by agencies operating in the state of Idaho. Red Flag Warnings posted by the US Forest Service and other agencies is roughly analogous to the CFWF but not identical. Daily readings from weather service stations was accessed to determine a county wide ranking of 2 to 7 days per year average. In any given year, the actual number of days observed may be more or less.

Slope was determined from an interactive GIS layer by creating a polygon around a community representing the area that most likely encompasses the immediate threat area to the community

from a wildfire. The average slope for that polygon was calculated along with statistics on this average. Using recommendations from FEMA publications, the steepest 75% of the region was used to represent the slope impact on wildfires. For this reason, the category for slope will generally appear to be steeper than observations on the ground might otherwise indicate.

Fuel classification was determined from the Fire Prone Landscapes assessment described in the Plan. This assessment created data ranked from 0 (low) to 100 (high). As was done with the slope calculation, fire prone landscapes scores were averaged for the impact area and statistics were determined for the amount of variation. The highest 95% of values were used to calculate the impact of fuels on wildland fires around communities. Resulting values were divided by 10 to create a scale from 1 to 10 for this analysis. These values (0-10) were used in combination with the ground cover (rangeland or forestland) to assign light, medium, and high categories. Light fuels were assigned to rangeland areas regardless of the Fire Prone Landscape rating. Medium fuels were forestland cover types with a Fire Prone Landscapes ranking from 0 to 5, with Heavy fuels assigned to forestlands with a score of 6 and higher.

A final classification was selected based on this information with the lowest category on the form Moderate, then to High and finally Extreme. The FEMA forms do not have a category for Low. This score was then reported on the header of the Wildfire Hazard Rating Form.

The **Wildfire Hazard Rating Form** differs from the **Fire Hazard Severity** form in that the latter describes the environmental factors potentially affecting a community or subdivision, while the former describes actual factors leading to the ability of residents and emergency service personnel to respond to the event of a wildfire. The Wildfire Hazard Rating Form is completed using subjective observations of a community. These ratings will change over time and should be updated as needed to better reflect changes in each community.

## Cambridge

FEMA's Fire Hazard Severity Criteria									
Fuel Classification	Critical Fire Weather Frequency								
	< 1 Day/Year			2 to 7 Days/Year			>8 Days/Year		
	Slope %			Slope %			Slope %		
	<40%	41-60%	>61%	<40%	41-60%	>61%	<40%	41-60%	>61%
Light Fuel	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	H
Medium Fuel	M	M	H	H	H	H	E	E	E
Heavy Fuel	H	H	H	H	E	E	E	E	E

M = Moderate Hazard, H = High Hazard, E = Extreme Hazard

Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code: 2000

<b>This Community:</b>	<b>Cambridge</b>
<b>CFW Frequency:</b>	2 to 7 Days/Year
<b>Slopes:</b>	41-60%
<b>FPL Score:</b>	5
<b>Landcover:</b>	Rangeland
<b>Cat:</b>	Light Fuel

Fire Prone Landscape Results	
Min	8
Average	35.63
Max	72
STD	16.3
Upper 95% CI	51.93
Score	5

Slope Analysis (%)	
Min	0.0
Average	17.7
Max	100.0
STD	18.4
Upper 75% CI	48.5
Category	41-60%

<b>Fire Hazard Severity Rating</b>
<b>FEMA Hazard Rating System</b>
→ <b>M</b> ←

**Wildfire Hazard Rating Form**  
**Washington County, Idaho**  
**Fire Mitigation Plan**

**Name of Community:** Cambridge **Date:** 1-Aug-03

**Landcover:** Rangeland

**Number of Structures:** 690

**WUI Condition:** Occluded Condition

**Overall Wildfire Hazard Rating: Low Hazard**

**Potential Fire Hazard Severity: Moderate Hazard**

**Comments:** Cambridge is a large urban community located in the northern end of the county. It is comprised of rangeland fuels on hillslopes rising above the community. Rural fire protection is excellent but travel distances for fire fighting equipment can be extreme. As this area grows increased resources may be needed.

**Evaluator:** Duman

Points	Points									
<b>A. Community Design</b>										
1. Ingress / Egress <div style="margin-left: 20px;">             Three or more primary roads .....1 <u>1</u>              Two or more primary roads .....2 _____                  One Road .....3 _____              One-way-in, one-way-out .....5 _____           </div>	<b>C. Topography</b>									
2. Width of Primary roads <div style="margin-left: 20px;">             20 feet or more .....1 <u>1</u>              20 feet or less .....3 _____           </div>	1. Predominant Slope <div style="margin-left: 20px;">             ≤ 8% .....1 <u>1</u>              &gt; 8% ≤ 20% .....4 _____              &gt; 20% ≤ 30% .....7 _____              &gt; 30% .....10 _____           </div>									
3. Accessibility <div style="margin-left: 20px;">             Road grade 5% or less .....1 <u>1</u>              Road grade 5% or more .....3 _____              Road grade 10% or more .....5 _____           </div>	<b>D. Roofing Material</b>									
4. Secondary Road Terminus <div style="margin-left: 20px;">             Loop roads, cul-de-sacs with outside turning radius of 45 feet or greater .....1 _____              Cul-de-sac turnaround radius is less than 45 feet .....2 <u>2</u>              Dead-end roads 200 feet or less in length .....3 _____              Dead-end roads greater than 200 feet long .....5 _____           </div>	<div style="margin-left: 20px;">             Class A Rated .....1 _____              Class B Rated .....3 <u>3</u>              Class C Rated .....5 _____              Non-Rated Roofing material .....10 _____           </div>									
5. Average lot size <div style="margin-left: 20px;">             10 acres or larger .....1 _____              ≥ 1 acre, &lt; 10 acres .....3 _____              ≤ 1 acre .....5 <u>5</u> </div>	<b>E. Fire Protection - Water Source</b>									
6. Street Signs <div style="margin-left: 20px;">             Signs with names and numbers .....1 _____              Signs with names present .....2 <u>2</u>              No Street Signs .....5 _____           </div>	<div style="margin-left: 20px;">             500 GPM Hydrant within 1,000' .....1 _____              Hydrant farther than 1,000' or draft site .....2 _____              Water Source within 20 minutes or less, round trip .....5 <u>5</u>              Water source farther than 20 minutes, but less than 45 minutes .....7 _____              Water source farther than 45 minutes round trip .....10 _____           </div>									
<b>B. Vegetation</b>	<b>F. Existing Building Construction Materials</b>									
1. Fire Prone Landscape Rating <div style="margin-left: 20px;">             1 - 10 scale ..... 1-10 <u>5</u> </div>	<div style="margin-left: 20px;">             Non-combustible siding/deck .....1 _____              Non-combustible siding BUT a combustible deck .....5 <u>5</u>              Combustible siding and deck .....10 _____           </div>									
2. Defensible Space <div style="margin-left: 20px;">             70% or more of site .....1 <u>1</u>              ≥ 30%, ≤ 70% .....3 _____              ≤ 30% of site .....5 _____           </div>	<b>G. Utilities</b>									
	<div style="margin-left: 20px;">             All underground utilities .....1 _____              One underground, one above ground .....3 _____              All above ground .....5 <u>5</u> </div>									
	<b>H. Fire Protection Services</b>									
	<div style="margin-left: 20px;">             Good Rural Department Coverage .....1 <u>1</u>              Limited Rural Department Coverage .....5 _____              No Rural Department Coverage .....10 _____           </div>									
<b>Total Score For Community</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;"><b>38</b></span>										
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"><b>Rating Scale</b></td> <td style="width: 30%;">Moderate Hazard</td> <td style="width: 40%;">45-65</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>High Hazard</td> <td>66-79</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Extreme Hazard</td> <td>80+</td> </tr> </table>		<b>Rating Scale</b>	Moderate Hazard	45-65		High Hazard	66-79		Extreme Hazard	80+
<b>Rating Scale</b>	Moderate Hazard	45-65								
	High Hazard	66-79								
	Extreme Hazard	80+								

Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code 2000, FEMA, version 1.0 August 2001 with modification by Northwest Management, Inc.



## Midvale

FEMA's Fire Hazard Severity Criteria									
Fuel Classification	Critical Fire Weather Frequency								
	< 1 Day/Year			2 to 7 Days/Year			>8 Days/Year		
	Slope %			Slope %			Slope %		
	<40%	41-60%	>61%	<40%	41-60%	>61%	<40%	41-60%	>61%
Light Fuel	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	H
Medium Fuel	M	M	H	H	H	H	E	E	E
Heavy Fuel	H	H	H	H	E	E	E	E	E

M = Moderate Hazard, H = High Hazard, E = Extreme Hazard

Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code: 2000

<b>This Community:</b>	<b>Midvale</b>
<b>CFW Frequency:</b>	2 to 7 Days/Year
<b>Slopes:</b>	>61%
<b>FPL Score:</b>	6
<b>Landcover:</b>	Rangeland

Fire Prone Landscape Results	
Min	8
Average	41.06
Max	72
STD	16.46
Upper 95% CI	57.52
Score	6

Slope Analysis (%)	
Min	0.0
Average	22.7
Max	100.0
STD	26.9
Upper 75% CI	67.7
Category	>61%

Fire Hazard Severity Rating	
FEMA Hazard Rating System	
→	<b>M</b>

**Wildfire Hazard Rating Form**  
**Washington County, Idaho**  
**Fire Mitigation Plan**

**Name of Community:** Midvale **Date:** 1-Aug-03

**Landcover:** Rangeland **Number of Structures:** 625

**WUI Condition:** Occluded Condition

**Overall Wildfire Hazard Rating: Low Hazard** **Potential Fire Hazard Severity: Moderate Hazard**

**Comments:** Range fires igniting along the Highway could threaten outlying homes and other structures.

There are also several abandoned farmhouses and lone hay barns along the outskirts of this community which could complicate fire fighting efforts. In general, this community is well protected.

**Evaluator:** Duman

	Points		Points									
<b>A. Community Design</b>		<b>C. Topography</b>										
1. Ingress / Egress		1. Predominant Slope										
Three or more primary roads .....1	<u>1</u>	≤ 8% .....1										
Two or more primary roads .....2		> 8% ≤ 20% .....4	<u>4</u>									
One Road .....3		> 20% ≤ 30% .....7										
One-way-in, one-way-out .....5		> 30% .....10										
2. Width of Primary roads		<b>D. Roofing Material</b>										
20 feet or more .....1	<u>1</u>	Class A Rated .....1										
20 feet or less .....3		Class B Rated .....3	<u>3</u>									
3. Accessibility		Class C Rated .....5										
Road grade 5% or less .....1	<u>1</u>	Non-Rated Roofing material .....10										
Road grade 5% or more .....3		<b>E. Fire Protection - Water Source</b>										
Road grade 10% or more .....5		500 GPM Hydrant within 1,000' .....1										
4. Secondary Road Terminus		Hydrant farther than 1,000' or										
Loop roads, cul-de-sacs with		draft site .....2										
outside turning radius of 45 feet		Water Source within 20 minutes or										
or greater .....1		less, round trip .....5	<u>5</u>									
Cul-de-sac turnaround radius		Water source farther than 20										
is less than 45 feet .....2	<u>2</u>	minutes, but less than 45 minutes .....7										
Dead-end roads 200 feet or		Water source farther than 45										
less in length .....3		minutes round trip .....10										
Dead-end roads greater		<b>F. Existing Building Construction Materials</b>										
than 200 feet long .....5		Non-combustible siding/deck .....1										
5. Average lot size		Non-combustible siding										
10 acres or larger .....1		BUT a combustible deck .....5	<u>5</u>									
≥ 1 acre, < 10 acres .....3	<u>4</u>	Combustible siding and deck .....10										
≤ 1 acre .....5		<b>G. Utilities</b>										
6. Street Signs		All underground utilities .....1										
Signs with names and numbers .....1		One underground, one above ground .....3										
Signs with names present .....2	<u>2</u>	All above ground .....5	<u>5</u>									
No Street Signs .....5		<b>H. Fire Protection Services</b>										
<b>B. Vegetation</b>		Good Rural Department Coverage .....1	<u>1</u>									
1. Fire Prone Landscape Rating		Limited Rural Department Coverage .....5										
1 - 10 scale ..... 1-10	<u>6</u>	No Rural Department Coverage .....10										
2. Defensible Space		<b>Total Score For Community</b> <span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><b>43</b></span>										
70% or more of site .....1		<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"><b>Rating Scale</b></td> <td style="width: 30%;">Moderate Hazard</td> <td style="width: 40%;">45-65</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>High Hazard</td> <td>66-79</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Extreme Hazard</td> <td>80+</td> </tr> </table>		<b>Rating Scale</b>	Moderate Hazard	45-65		High Hazard	66-79		Extreme Hazard	80+
<b>Rating Scale</b>	Moderate Hazard			45-65								
	High Hazard			66-79								
	Extreme Hazard	80+										
≥ 30%, ≤ 70% .....3	<u>3</u>											
≤ 30% of site .....5												

Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code 2000, FEMA, version 1.0 August 2001 with modification by Northwest Management, Inc.

## Weiser

FEMA's Fire Hazard Severity Criteria									
Fuel Classification	Critical Fire Weather Frequency								
	< 1 Day/Year			2 to 7 Days/Year			>8 Days/Year		
	Slope %			Slope %			Slope %		
	<40%	41-60%	>61%	<40%	41-60%	>61%	<40%	41-60%	>61%
Light Fuel	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	H
Medium Fuel	M	M	H	H	H	H	E	E	E
Heavy Fuel	H	H	H	H	E	E	E	E	E

M = Moderate Hazard, H = High Hazard, E = Extreme Hazard

Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code: 2000

<b>This Community:</b>	<b>Weiser</b>
<b>CFW Frequency:</b>	2 to 7 Days/Year
<b>Slopes:</b>	>61%
<b>FPL Score:</b>	6
<b>Landcover:</b>	Cat: Light Fuel Rangeland

Fire Prone Landscape Results	
Min	4
Average	42.61
Max	73
STD	20.85
Upper 95% CI	63.46
Score	6.3

Slope Analysis (%)	
Min	0.0
Average	38.4
Max	100.0
STD	44.2
Upper 75% CI	112.3
Category	>61%

<b>Fire Hazard Severity Rating</b> FEMA Hazard Rating System
→ <b>M</b> ←

**Wildfire Hazard Rating Form**  
**Washington County, Idaho**  
**Fire Mitigation Plan**

**Name of Community:** Weiser **Date:** 1-Aug-03

**Landcover:** Rangeland **Number of Structures:** 3087

**WUI Condition:** Urban Condition

**Overall Wildfire Hazard Rating: Low Hazard**

**Potential Fire Hazard Severity: Moderate Hazard**

**Comments:** Although the range to the northeast of town presents a moderate risk of wildfire, the primary risk to the community is due to the potential for agricultural annual burning to escape. In addition, the railroad and the nearby mill represent some potential ignition sources.

**Evaluator:** Duman

	Points		Points						
<b>A. Community Design</b>		<b>C. Topography</b>							
1. Ingress / Egress		1. Predominant Slope							
Three or more primary roads .....1	<u>1</u>	≤ 8% .....1	<u>1</u>						
Two or more primary roads .....2	<u>      </u>	> 8% ≤ 20% .....4	<u>      </u>						
One Road .....3	<u>      </u>	> 20% ≤ 30% .....7	<u>      </u>						
One-way-in, one-way-out .....5	<u>      </u>	> 30% .....10	<u>      </u>						
2. Width of Primary roads		<b>D. Roofing Material</b>							
20 feet or more .....1	<u>1</u>	Class A Rated .....1	<u>1</u>						
20 feet or less .....3	<u>      </u>	Class B Rated .....3	<u>      </u>						
3. Accessibility		Class C Rated .....5	<u>      </u>						
Road grade 5% or less .....1	<u>1</u>	Non-Rated Roofing material .....10	<u>      </u>						
Road grade 5% or more .....3	<u>      </u>	<b>E. Fire Protection - Water Source</b>							
Road grade 10% or more .....5	<u>      </u>	500 GPM Hydrant within 1,000' .....1	<u>1</u>						
4. Secondary Road Terminus		Hydrant farther than 1,000' or							
Loop roads, cul-de-sacs with		draft site .....2	<u>      </u>						
outside turning radius of 45 feet		Water Source within 20 minutes or							
or greater .....1	<u>1</u>	less, round trip .....5	<u>      </u>						
Cul-de-sac turnaround radius		Water source farther than 20							
is less than 45 feet .....2	<u>      </u>	minutes, but less than 45 minutes .....7	<u>      </u>						
Dead-end roads 200 feet or		Water source farther than 45							
less in length .....3	<u>      </u>	minutes round trip .....10	<u>      </u>						
Dead-end roads greater		<b>F. Existing Building Construction Materials</b>							
than 200 feet long .....5	<u>      </u>	Non-combustible siding/deck .....1	<u>1</u>						
5. Average lot size		Non-combustible siding							
10 acres or larger .....1	<u>      </u>	BUT a combustible deck .....5	<u>      </u>						
≥ 1 acre, < 10 acres .....3	<u>      </u>	Combustible siding and deck .....10	<u>      </u>						
≤ 1 acre .....5	<u>5</u>	<b>G. Utilities</b>							
6. Street Signs		All underground utilities .....1	<u>      </u>						
Signs with names and numbers .....1	<u>      </u>	One underground, one above ground .....3	<u>      </u>						
Signs with names present .....2	<u>2</u>	All above ground .....5	<u>5</u>						
No Street Signs .....5	<u>      </u>	<b>H. Fire Protection Services</b>							
<b>B. Vegetation</b>		Good Rural Department Coverage .....1	<u>1</u>						
1. Fire Prone Landscape Rating		Limited Rural Department Coverage .....5	<u>      </u>						
1 - 10 scale ..... 1-10	<u>6</u>	No Rural Department Coverage .....10	<u>      </u>						
2. Defensible Space		<b>Total Score For Community</b> <span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><b>28</b></span>							
70% or more of site .....1	<u>1</u>	<b>Rating Scale</b> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Moderate Hazard</td> <td>45-65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High Hazard</td> <td>66-79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extreme Hazard</td> <td>80+</td> </tr> </table>		Moderate Hazard	45-65	High Hazard	66-79	Extreme Hazard	80+
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Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code 2000, FEMA, version 1.0 August 2001 with modification by Northwest Management, Inc.



## Appendix III

### Public Mail Survey

#### *Public Letter #1*

mailed on August 8, 2003

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August 8, 2003

Name

Address

City, State Zip

Dear Washington County Landowner:

Thank you for taking fifteen minutes of your time to read and respond to this short inquiry. We are working with the Washington County Commissioners Office and a host of fire protection and disaster relief organizations in Washington County to develop a wildland fire mitigation plan in your area. As an individual who own property in Washington County, you know that the wildland-rural interface is at very high risk to casualty loss due to forest and range fires. We all witnessed the fires in 2000 that ravaged western Montana and Central Idaho. This year's fire season is burning aggressively Idaho, especially in our area.

However, we are doing more than watching for fires this year, we are taking a proactive role in reducing fire starts and mitigating wildland fire caused casualty loss in your area. We are inviting you to take a proactive role as well.

We are developing improved predictive models of where fires are likely to ignite, locating and identifying high risk landscape characteristics, advancing improved land management practices to reduce fire rate-of-spread on forestlands and rangelands, and working with rural landowners to create defensible zones around homes and buildings so that fires are controlled BEFORE they take your valuable possessions. It is the last of these goals that we need your help with.

We would like you to complete the attached survey about your home's defensible space in the case of wildfire. Your responses will be kept completely confidential and released only in aggregated form. This questionnaire will allow us to identify key criteria that may place your home and the homes of your neighbors at the greatest risk. We will use this information to develop mitigation activities that may lead to saving your home and the community you live in.

We have sent this letter and survey to only a select number of people in Washington County. Because of this, your response is very important to our efforts and the application of our findings to your home and to your community. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey and return it to us in the self addressed envelope.

We would like to thank you for your assistance on this project with a small token of appreciation. During the development of this project, we are completing some very advanced mapping of Washington County. We have created detailed maps showing roads, rivers, elevation, fire prone landscapes, plant cover characteristics, and even orthophoto coverage (black and white images

taken from high elevation) with features over them. These maps are printed at 8.5" x 11" sizes. If you give us a legal land description, we will make a high resolution map of this property and send it to you. The map might be the locale of your home, your property, or even your favorite recreation spot. When you complete your survey, please mark which map coverage you would like, and we will custom color print this map for you and send it at no charge. It is our way of thanking you for your input to this very important project.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions about this project or this survey please contact me at the Northwest Management, Inc., office in Moscow, Idaho, at 208-883-4488.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "William E. Schlosser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.

Project Manager, Washington County Fire Mitigation Plan

Northwest Management, Inc.

## Washington County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan

### ***Public Survey***

1. Do you have a home in Washington County?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
2. Is this your primary residence?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
3. Which community do you live closest to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Does your area have 911 emergency telephone service?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
5. Is your home protected by a rural fire department?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
6. What type of roof does your home have (please mark one):
  - ☐ Composite
  - ☐ Wooden shake (shingles)
  - ☐ Ceramic tiles
  - ☐ Aluminum, tin, or other metal
  - ☐ Other (please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_)
7. How many trees are within 250 feet of your home?
  - ☐ None
  - ☐ less than 10
  - ☐ Between 10 and 25
  - ☐ More than 25
8. How many trees are within 75 feet of your home?
  - ☐ None
  - ☐ less than 10
  - ☐ Between 10 and 25
  - ☐ More than 25
9. Do you have a lawn surrounding your home?
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ Yes, if yes is it kept green and trimmed all summer?
    - ☐ No
    - ☐ Yes

10. How long is your driveway, from the main road to your home parking area? Please indicate distance units in feet or miles.

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Feet
- ☐ Miles

11. If your driveway is over ½ mile long, does it have turnouts that would allow two trucks to pass each other?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

12. If the primary access to your home were cut off because of a wildfire, would you have an alternative route to escape through?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

13. Please indicate which of the following items you have available at or near your home that could be used in fighting a wildland fire that threatens your home (mark all that apply)

- ☐ Hand tools (shovel, pulaski, etc.)
- ☐ Portable water tank
- ☐ Stationary water tank
- ☐ Pond, lake, or stream water supply close
- ☐ Water pump and fire hose
- ☐ Equipment suitable for creating fire breaks (bulldozer, cat, skidder, etc.)

14. Has anyone in your household been trained in basic wildland fire fighting?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

15. Has anyone in your household been trained in basic structural fire fighting?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

16. Do you conduct a periodic fuels reduction program near your home site such as grass or brush burning?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

17. Do livestock (cattle, horses, sheep) graze the grasses and forbs around your home?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes



18. Use this exercise below to assess your home's fire risk rating:  
Circle the ratings in each category that best describes your home.

<b>Fuel Hazard Rating Worksheet</b>		<b>Rating</b>
<b>Fuel Hazard</b>	Small, light fuels (grasses, forbs, weeds, shrubs)	1
	Medium size fuels (brush, large shrubs, small trees)	2
	Heavy, large fuels (woodlands, timber, heavy brush)	3
<b>Slope Hazard</b>	Mild slopes (0-5%)	1
	Moderate slope (6-20%)	2
	Steep Slopes (21-40%)	3
	Extreme slopes (41% and greater)	4
<b>Structure Hazard</b>	Noncombustible roof and noncombustible siding materials	1
	Noncombustible roof and combustible siding material	3
	Combustible roof and noncombustible siding material	7
	Combustible roof and combustible siding materials	10
<b>Additional Factors</b>	Rough topography that contains several steep canyons or ridges	+2
	Areas having history of higher than average fire occurrence	+3
	Areas exposed to severe fire weather and strong winds	+4
	Areas with existing fuel modifications or usable fire breaks	-3
	Areas with local facilities (water systems, rural fire districts, dozers)	-3

#### Calculating your risk

Fuel hazard \_\_\_\_\_ x Slope Hazard \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Structural hazard + \_\_\_\_\_

Additional factors (+ or -) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hazard Points = \_\_\_\_\_

**Extreme Risk = 26 + points**

**High Risk = 16–25 points**

**Moderate Risk = 6–15 points**

**Low Risk = 6 or less points**

19. If offered in your area, would members of your household attend a free, or low cost, one-day training seminar designed to teach homeowners in the wildland–urban interface how to improve the defensible space surrounding your home and adjacent outbuildings?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

20. Would you be interested in participating in a cost share program that would pay a portion of the costs of implementing fire risk projects on your property?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Thank you very much for completing this survey and sending it back to us. This information will be combined with other data to assess the greatest threats to defending homes and adjacent buildings in the wildland–urban interface where wildland fires are common.

Please place the completed survey in the self addressed envelope and place it in the mail for return to us. Thank you!

## Order Your Washington County Area Map **FREE**

As a token of appreciation for completing and returning this survey, we would like to send you a detailed map of your favorite area. Complete this form and return it to us with your survey and we will custom print a color map of your property and send it to you. Maps are at a scale of approximately 1:12,000 showing 1 square mile at its center.

What is the legal land description of the property you want mapped (must be in Washington County).

\_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ N, R \_\_\_\_\_ E.

or describe the area \_\_\_\_\_

About how many acres is the parcel you want mapped? \_\_\_\_\_ acres

What would you like printed as the title of the map? (Five or less words, please print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Please select which coverage (only one per map) you would like as the primary theme:

- ☐ Land Ownership Categories (over shaded relief map)
- ☐ Ortho photo (limited availability)
- ☐ Fire Prone Landscapes

All maps include:

- Roads
- Streams & rivers
- Community locations
- Building locations (where available)
- Township, Range, and Sections (property lines are not included)
- Hillshade relief placed in the background to provide representation of slope and elevation.

**Please verify your name and full address here so we can send your map to you:**

Our records indicate that your address is: \_\_\_\_\_ If this is incorrect please correct it here:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_



## **Public Letter #2**

sent as a postcard on August 20, 2003

August 20, 2003

Dear Washington County Resident:

About two weeks ago, I mailed you a letter and a brief survey concerning the wildfire situation in your community. That survey is instrumental to the success of the Fire Mitigation Plan we are developing in conjunction with the Washington County Commissioners Office. We have received responses from many families in the area and we wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who has participated. However, we still have not received completed surveys from many homes in the region. If you have not returned the completed survey to us yet, please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it in the self-addressed envelope provided with the survey.

Your responses are very important to this effort which will recommend the location and type of fire mitigation projects to be implemented in the area of your home. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact me at 208-883-4488. If you did not receive my original letter, or if you misplaced your survey, you can request a new one at the telephone number below or write me requesting another survey.

Thank you for your time and your assistance with this project!



William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.

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**Northwest Management, Inc.**

Natural Resource Management

233 Palouse River Dr., P.O. Box 9748, Moscow ID 83843

Tel: 208-883-4488, Fax 208-883-1098, <http://www.Consulting-Foresters.com/>

### ***Public letter #3***

Sent on September 1, 2003 and included a replacement survey (not included here).

September 1, 2003

---

Name

Address

City, State Zip

Dear Washington County Landowner:

Thank you for taking fifteen minutes of your time to read and respond to this short inquiry. Last month I sent you a letter and package of materials much like this one. In that letter, I asked if you would please assist our efforts by reading, filling out, and returning a short survey concerning a **wildland fire mitigation plan** we are preparing for Washington County in cooperation with the Washington County Commissioners Office. I sent a short postcard reminding you of that package just over a week ago. While we have received excellent responses from many residents of the area, we have not received it from everyone. ***If you have completed and returned your survey, please accept our sincere thanks!*** If you have not returned the completed survey, please do so as soon as possible.

You are in an unique situation to provide valuable insights and information concerning the fire risks to your home and property in Washington County. Without this information, our recommendations for specific fire risk mitigation activities will not be targeted appropriately to where the risks are located. I have enclosed another survey and return envelope for you. Please complete it and drop it in the mail so that we can include your information with that from your neighbors. ***We need your help.***

As an individual with a home and property in Washington County, you know that the wildland-urban interface is at very high risk to casualty loss due to forest fires. We are developing improved predictive models of where fires are likely to ignite, locating and identifying high risk landscape characteristics, advancing improved forest and range management practices to reduce fire rate-of-spread, and working with rural landowners to create defensible zones around homes and buildings so that fires are controlled BEFORE they take your valuable possessions. It is the last of these goals that we need your help with.

We would like you to complete the attached survey about your home's defensible space in the case of wildfire. Your responses will be kept completely confidential and released only in aggregated form. This questionnaire will allow us to identify key criteria that may place your home and the homes of your neighbors at the greatest risk. We will use this information to develop mitigation activities that may lead to saving your home and the community you live in.

We have sent this letter and survey to only a select number of people living in Washington County. Because of this, your response is very important to our efforts and the application of our findings to your home and to your community. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey and return it to us in the self addressed envelope.

We would like to thank you for your assistance on this project with a small token of appreciation. During the development of this project, we are completing some very advanced mapping Washington County. We have created detailed maps showing roads, rivers, elevation, fire prone landscapes, potential fire ignition locations, plant cover characteristics, and even orthophoto coverage (black and white images taken from high elevation) with features over them. These maps are printed at 8.5" x 11" sizes. **If you give us a legal land description, we will make a high resolution map of your property and send it to you.** The map might be the locale of your home, your property, or even your favorite recreation spot. When you complete your survey, please mark which map coverage you would like, and we will custom color print this map for you and send it at no charge. It is our way of thanking you for your input to this very important project.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions about this project or this survey please contact me at the Northwest Management, Inc., office in Moscow, Idaho, at 208-883-4488.

Sincerely,



William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.

Project Manager, Washington County Fire Mitigation Plan  
Northwest Management, Inc.

## Appendix IV

### Potential Funding Sources

Program:	<b>Rural Fire Assistance</b>
Source:	Bureau of Land Management
Description:	BLM provides funds to rural fire departments for wildfire fighting; also provides wildland fire equipment, training and/or prevention materials.
More info:	Dale Anderson, RFA Coordinator, BLM, 208-373-3861; <a href="mailto:dale_anderson@blm.gov">dale_anderson@blm.gov</a>
Program:	<b>Communities at Risk</b>
Source:	Bureau of Land Management
Description:	Assistance to communities for hazardous fuels reduction projects in the wildland urban interface; includes funding for assessments and mitigation planning.
More info:	Jon Skinner, Idaho BLM, 208-373-3854
Program:	<b>State Fire Assistance</b>
Source:	US Forest Service
Description:	USFS grants to state foresters through state and private grants, under authority of Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act. Grant objectives are to maintain and improve protection efficiency and effectiveness on non-federal lands, training, equipment, preparedness, prevention and education.
More info:	<a href="http://www.fireplan.gov">www.fireplan.gov</a> and <a href="http://www2.state.id.us/lands">www2.state.id.us/lands</a> ; Brian Shiplett, Idaho Department of Lands 208-666-8650
Program:	<b>State Fire Assistance Hazard Mitigation Program</b>
Source:	National Fire Plan
Description:	These special state Fire Assistance funds are targeted at hazard fuels treatment in the wildland-urban interface. Recipients include state forestry organizations, local fire services, county emergency planning committees and private landowners.
More info:	<a href="http://www.fireplan.gov">www.fireplan.gov</a> and <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/r4">www.fs.fed.us/r4</a> and <a href="http://www2.state.id.us/lands">www2.state.id.us/lands</a> ; Mike Tennery, Idaho Department of Lands 208-769-1525
Program:	<b>Volunteer Fire Assistance</b>
Source:	US Forest Service
Description:	Provides funding and technical assistance to local and volunteer fire departments for organizing, training and equipment to enable them to effectively meet their structure and wildland protection responsibilities. US Forest Service grants provided to state foresters through state and private grants under the authority of Coop Forestry Assistance Act.
More info:	<a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/vfa">www.fs.fed.us/fire/partners/vfa</a> ; Brian Shiplett, Idaho Department of Lands, 208-666-8650



Program: **Forest Land Enhancement Program**

Source: US Forest Service

Description: The 2002 Farm Bill repealed the Forestry Incentives Program (authorized in 1978) and Stewardship Incentive Program (1990) cost share programs and replaced it with a new Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP). FLEP purposes include 1) Enhance the productivity of timber, fish and wildlife habitat, soil and water quality, wetland, recreational resources, and aesthetic values of forest land through landowner cost share assistance, and 2) Establish a coordinated, cooperative federal, state and local sustainable forestry program to establish, manage, maintain, enhance and restore forests on non-industrial private forest land.

More info: [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill)

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Program: **Federal Excess Property**

Source: US Forest Service

Description: Provides assistance to state, county and local governments by providing excess federal property (equipment, supplies, tools) for wildland and rural community fire response.

More info: [www2.state.id.us/lands](http://www2.state.id.us/lands); George Riffle, Idaho Department of Lands, 208-666-8664

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Program: **Economic Action Program**

Source: US Forest Service

Description: A USFS, state and private program with involvement from local Forest Service offices to help identify projects. Addresses long-term economic and social health of rural areas; assists the development of enterprises through diversified uses of forest products, marketing assistance, and utilization of hazardous fuel byproducts.

More info: [www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/community/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/community/); Bob Ford, Idaho Department of Commerce, 800-842-5858

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Program: **Forest Stewardship Program**

Source: US Forest Service

Description: Funding helps enable preparation of management plans on state, private and tribal lands to ensure effective and efficient hazardous fuel treatment.

More info: [www2.state.id.us/lands](http://www2.state.id.us/lands); G. Kirk David, Idaho Department of Lands, 208-666-8626

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Program: **Community Planning**

Source: US Forest Service

Description: USFS provides funds to recipients with involvement of local Forest Service offices for the development of community strategic action and fire risk management plans to increase community resiliency and capacity.

More info: [www.idoc.state.id.us](http://www.idoc.state.id.us); Bob Ford, Idaho Department of Commerce, 800-842-5858

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Program: **Firefighters Assistance**

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency and US Fire Administration Program

Description: Financial assistance to help improve fire-fighting operations, services and provide equipment.

More info:	<a href="http://www.usfa.fema.gov">www.usfa.fema.gov</a>
Program:	<b>Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program</b>
Source:	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Description:	Emergency management assistance to local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans.
More info:	<a href="http://www.usfa.fema.gov">www.usfa.fema.gov</a> ; Steven Weiser, Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services, 208-334-3460
Program:	<b>Idaho Forestry Assistance Program</b>
Source:	Idaho Department of Lands
Description:	Funding available to assist with organizing, training, and purchasing fire fighting equipment.
More info:	<a href="http://www2.state.id.us/lands/Bureau/FireMgt/Fire_assistance.htm">www2.state.id.us/lands/Bureau/FireMgt/Fire_assistance.htm</a> ; Brian Shiplett, Idaho Department of Lands, 208-666-8650
Program:	<b>Community Facilities Loans and Grants</b>
Source:	Rural Housing Service (RHS) U. S. Dept. of Agriculture
Description:	Provides grants (and loans) to cities, counties, states and other public entities to improve community facilities for essential services to rural residents. Projects can include fire and rescue services; funds have been provided to purchase fire-fighting equipment for rural areas. No match is required.
More info:	<a href="http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/">http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/</a> ; or local county Rural Development office.
Program:	<b>Sale of Federal Surplus Personal Property</b>
Source:	General Services Administration
Description:	This program sells property no longer needed by the federal government. The program provides individuals, businesses and organizations the opportunity to enter competitive bids for purchase of a wide variety of personal property and equipment. Normally, there is no use restrictions on the property purchased.
More info:	<a href="http://www.gsa.gov">www.gsa.gov</a>
Program:	<b>Reimbursement for Firefighting on Federal Property</b>
Source:	U. S. Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Description:	Program provides reimbursement to fire service organizations that have engaged in firefighting operations on federal land. Payments can be for direct expenses and direct losses.
More info:	<a href="http://www.fema.gov">www.fema.gov</a>
Program:	<b>Fire Management Assistance Grant Program</b>
Source:	Readiness, Response and Recovery Directorate, FEMA
Description:	Program provides grants to states, tribal governments and local governments for the mitigation, management and control of any fire burning on publicly (nonfederal) or privately owned forest or grassland that threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. The grants are made in the form of cost sharing with the

federal share being 75 percent of total eligible costs. Grant approvals are made within 1 to 72 hours from time of request.

More info: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

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Program: **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**

Source: Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, FEMA

Description: Provides states and local governments with financial assistance to implement measures to reduce or eliminate damage and losses from natural hazards. Funded projects have included vegetation management projects. It is each State's responsibility to identify and select hazard mitigation projects.

More info: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

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Program: **Boise State University Wildland Fire Academy.**

Source: Partnership between BSU and SWIFT (Southwest Idaho Fire Training, a group including the BLM, Forest Service, and the Idaho Department of Lands).

Description: Provides a full range of fire training classes during one week in June at the Sella College of Technology on the BSU campus. Tuition is required. Open to federal, state, local fire fighters, contractors, and the public. Housing is available on campus. (Separate from, but in conjunction with, this academy, BSU recently began offering an associate degree program in fire science.)

More info: BLM training officer, 208-384-3403, or BSU's Sella College, 208-426-1974.

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## Appendix V

### Training Programs

**Program:** National Fire Academy Educational Program

**Source:** National Fire Academy, U. S. Fire Administration, FEMA

**Description:** Provides training to people responsible for fire prevention and control. Training is provided at the resident facility in Emmetsburg, Maryland, and travel stipends are available for attendees. The course is available to any individual who is a member of a fire department; attendees are selected based on need and benefit to be derived by their community.

**More info:** [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

**Program:** Emergency Management Institute (EMI), Independent Study Program

**Source:** EMI Readiness, Response and Recovery Directorate, FEMA

**Description:** The program currently provides 32 courses in emergency management practices to assist fire department managers with response to emergencies and disasters. Several courses could apply to fires in rural interface areas.

**More info:** [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

### Research Programs

**Program:** Forestry Research (Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act)

**Source:** U S Forest Service

**Description:** Awards grants for research in a wide array of forest-related fields, including forest management and forest fire protection.

**Contact:** [www.fs.fed.us/linksresearch.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/linksresearch.html)

### Private Foundations

**Source:** Idaho Community Foundation

**Description:** Provides grants for community development, human services; past grants have been awarded for equipment and an array of firefighting and rescue needs. Grants range from \$250 to \$25,000.

**Deadline:** Feb 1 for northern region; Nov 1 for statewide cycle

**More info:** Contact foundation for application information packet: 210 S. State Street, Boise, ID 83702; 208-342-3535; [info@idcomfdn.org](mailto:info@idcomfdn.org); [www.idcomfdn.org](http://www.idcomfdn.org)



Source: **The Allstate Foundation**

Description: Provides grants for community development, government/public administration, safety/disasters. Grants average \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Deadline: None

More info: Guidelines available by mail request only: 2775 Sanders Rd., Suite F3, Northbrook, IL 60062-6127; [www.allstate.com/foundation/](http://www.allstate.com/foundation/)

Source: **Plum Creek Foundation**

Description: Provides grants for community projects in areas of company operations. In 2000, grants were awarded to a volunteer fire department and a county search & rescue unit. An application form is required. Grants average around \$5,000.

Deadline: None

More info: Contact foundation at 999-3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Suite 2300, Seattle, WA 98104; 206-467-3600; [www.plumcreek.com/company/foundation.cfm](http://www.plumcreek.com/company/foundation.cfm); [foundation@plumcreek.com](mailto:foundation@plumcreek.com)

Source: **The Steele-Reese Foundation**

Description: Provides grants for rural development and projects that benefit rural areas; Idaho is one of several areas in which the foundation funds projects. Have funded projects for emergency volunteers and fire protection districts in the past. Grant amounts fall within a wide range. The foundation requires three copies of the request letter; no application form is required.

Deadline: April 1

More info: 32 Washington Square West, New York, NY 10011. Info on Idaho programs: 406-722-4564

## Appendix VI

### Laws Governing Fire Districts in Idaho

In 1943, the Idaho legislature passed, and Governor C.A. Bottolfson signed, the Idaho Fire Protection District Law. The law specifically recognized the legality of all fire protection districts and the legality of their officers existing prior to its passage. Pre-existing districts were instructed to comply with the provision of the law as soon as they could conveniently do so. Since that time, the law has been amended over two dozen times. The most comprehensive revision of the law occurred in 1994. The 1994 revisions stipulated that all districts created or annexed during the twelve-month period prior to June 1, 1994 were considered to be in full compliance with all applicable laws regardless of prior interpretations.

The basic purpose of the 1994 revisions was to establish procedures for the formation, operation, and dissolution of fire protection districts in the State of Idaho.

What follows is a general description of the steps needed for fire district formation, the expansion of an existing district to take in new territory, and to consolidate two or more districts into one district. Please note that whenever a reference is made to the singular action of one Board of County Commissioner hereafter in this description, it may include joint action taken or required by two or more boards of county commissioners where two or more counties are involved in fire district formation. This also applies to annexation of new territory, or consolidation of two or more fire districts in different counties. Boards of Commissioners in two or more counties are authorized by law to act jointly if a fire district has territory within each county. It is always best to seek competent legal advice if the intent is to form, annex, or consolidate districts.

**Additional Information.** For additional information regarding fire district officers, duties and responsibilities, operations of the Fire District Board of Commissioners, cooperative arrangements, finance, etc., refer to the Handbook for Idaho Fire Protection Districts.<sup>1</sup>

#### ***I. Creation of a New Fire Protection District***

A fire protection district may be created in any portion of a county that is not already organized into a district. Three steps must be followed to establish a fire protection district:

- 1) The proponents of the new district must file a petition with the Board of County Commissioners;
- 2) The Board of County Commissioner must hold a public hearing before the new district is formed; and
- 3) The qualified electors within the proposed district must approve the district's formation.

**1) Filing the Petition:** The first step in creating a fire protection district is to draw up a petition requesting its creation. The petition must designate the boundaries of the district, identify the proposed name, and include a map of the district. It must be signed by at least twenty-five property

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<sup>1</sup> Handbook for Idaho Fire Protection Districts. Bureau of Public Affairs Research. University of Idaho 2002. More information on how to obtain a handbook is found at the website: <http://www.uidaho.edu/bpar/fire.html>

owners in the proposed district whose property holdings total at least 1,000 contiguous acres or have an assessed value of at least \$500,000 and are not currently included in any existing fire district.

The petition must be presented to the Board of County Commissioners and filed with the Clerk of the Board. The petition and supporting documents must be available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk from the time of filing until the election.

The petitioners must deposit with the Board enough money to cover the costs of advertising and hold the election to create the district. The Board determines the amount required and the funds must be deposited prior to the Board's publishing notice of the hearing for creation of the district. If the district is organized, the petitioners are reimbursed from the first tax money collected by the newly formed district for the advertising and election costs.

Any area within a city may be included within a fire protection district by resolution or ordinance of its governing board.

2) *The Hearing:* The Board of County Commissioners must set a time for a public hearing on the petition between four and six weeks after it has been filed. If the proposed fire protection district is located in two or more counties, the boards of commissioners of the affected counties must coordinate the hearing date and the publication of the hearing notice so that only one hearing is held. The hearing must be held in the county with the largest area in the proposed fire protection district. The boards of county commissioners representing the affected counties are authorized to act in a joint manner.

For three successive weeks prior to the hearing, the Board must publish notice of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in which the proposed district is to be located. The notice must include a description of the proposed district and its boundaries, the date of the public hearing, and state that all taxpayers within the proposed district may appear and express their views on the organization of the district and its boundaries. At the hearing, all objections are presented to the Board. After considering all testimony, the Board decides whether to deny the petition, grant it as filed, or grant it with modification. If the petition is granted, the Board of County Commissioners fixes the boundaries of the proposed district and files a map of the district with the Clerk of the Board.

3) *The Election:* After the Board of County Commissioners set the boundaries of the district, the Clerk of the Board must twice publish a notice of the election in a newspaper published within the county or counties affected to determine whether or not the district should be organized. The notice must clearly designate the names and boundaries of the proposed district and require voters to cast ballots containing the words "fire protection district, yes," or "fire protection district, no." The first notice must be published not less than 12 days prior to the election and the second not less than five days prior to the election. If the proposed fire protection district is to be located in two or more counties, the boards of county commissioners will conduct the election on the same day in each county.

Voter qualifications for a fire protection district election are the same as for other state elections: a qualified voter must be United States citizen, be at least 18 years old, and be residents of the state or the county for at least 30 days. The voter must also be a resident of the proposed fire protection district and be registered with the County Clerk.

The Board of County Commissioners creates as many election precincts within the proposed district as it deems necessary, and appoints three election judges for each precinct. The election judges forward the official election results to the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. Within ten days of receiving the returns, the Board of County Commissioners must canvass the votes. Where



more than one county is involved, the boards of commissioners of the affected counties are to coordinate the canvassing and the announcement of the results.

The Board of County Commissioners in each county approving a newly formed district must provide a copy of the legal description and map, prepared in draftsman-like manner, to the County Assessor and Clerk and Recorder of the county or counties within thirty days of the effective date of district's formation. The fire protection district is responsible for filing the map and legal description with the State Tax Commission.

Initially, any newly created fire district must consist of three commissioners. At the time of establishment of a new fire protection district, the Board of County Commissioners shall divide the district into three subdivisions, as nearly equal in population and territory as possible.

## ***II. Expanding an Existing Fire District***

**Annexation of territory within the same county.** Both contiguous and noncontiguous territory may be annexed by an existing fire protection district; however, any noncontiguous territory to be included must, itself, consist of not less than forty -acre parcels of contiguous territory in order to qualify for annexation. There are two methods for annexing territory in the same county:

- At least 75 percent of the owners or contract purchasers of the land sought to be annexed may petition the fire protection board of commissioners for annexation. After receiving the petition, the fire protection district board must hold a public hearing within ten to thirty days. The fire protection district board must publish notice of the place of the hearing in at least one issue of a newspaper of general circulation within the district. Any person attending the hearing who wishes to express support or opposition must be allowed to speak at the hearing. After the hearing, the fire protection district board either approves or rejects the petition. If the board approves the petition, it makes an order to that effect and sends to the Board of County Commissioners a certified copy of the petition and a legal description of the annexed territory. The Board of County Commissioner enters and records an order of annexation, ensuring that the annexed property will be properly included in the tax rolls for the fire protection district.
- If at least 75 percent of the owners or contract purchasers of the land sought for annexation fail to sign the petition for annexation, or if the petition is denied, the territory may still be annexed by securing an affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified voters residing in the additional territory. The vote may be taken at either a general or special election. Before the annexation election, the inclusion must be approved by resolution of the board of the existing fire protection district and entered in the board minutes. The same procedures described above to create and organize a fire protection district, including petition, hearing, election notice, and an election, are to be followed for the annexation election.
- The Board of County Commissioners must provide a copy of the legal description and map, prepared in draftsman-like manner of the new boundaries to the County Assessor and Clerk and Recorder within 30 days of the effective date of the annexation of the district. The district is responsible for filing the map and legal description with the State Tax Commission.

**Annexation of territory in an adjoining county.** Contiguous or noncontiguous territory located in an adjoining county may be annexed to an existing fire protection district; however, any such noncontiguous territory proposed to be annexed must consist of at least forty contiguous acres. The

procedures are similar to those required for the creation of a fire protection district with the following modifications:

- Two or more property owners of contiguous lands totaling at least 100 acres, or having an assessed value of at least \$125,000 may initiate proceedings.
- A petition describing the territory to be annexed, naming, and describing the fire protection district to which annexation is sought must be filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the county in which the new territory is situated. The petition must be accompanied by a map showing the boundaries of the original district, the territory proposed to be annexed, the location of the intervening county line, and a certified copy of a resolution of the fire district board consenting to the annexation.
- Notice of the hearing on the petition before the Board of County Commissioners must identify the territory proposed to be annexed, the time and place of the hearing, and state that any taxpayer in the territory may appear and present objections.
- After the hearing, if the petition is granted, the Board of County Commissioners enters an order fixing the boundaries of the annexed territory, directing the Clerk of the Board to have a map prepared. Certified copies of the order and the map are then sent to the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of the county in which the original fire protection district is situated.
- An election must then be held in the territory desiring annexation. Notice of the election must describe the boundaries of the territory for which annexation is sought. The notice must describe the form of the ballot to be used at the election.
- The territory proposed to be annexed constitutes one election precinct. If a voter is challenged, he/she must swear in addition to the usual elector's oath, "I am a resident within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed to \_\_\_\_ Fire Protection District."
- The Board of County Commissioners canvasses returns of the election. If more than half of the voters support annexation, the Board of County Commissioners by order declares the territory to be annexed to the existing fire protection district. A certified copy of the order is sent to the board of the original fire protection district, to the Board of County Commissioners of the county in which the original district is situated, and to the County Clerk and Recorder of the county in which the newly annexed territory is situated.
- The Board of County Commissioners of the original fire district must provide a copy of the legal description and map showing the new boundaries of the district to the County Assessor and Clerk and Recorder within 30 days of the effective date of its formation. The fire protection district is responsible for filing the map and legal description with the State Tax Commission.
- At the first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners following the annexation, the Board must re-divide the expanded fire protection district into three subdivisions as equal as possible in terms of land area and population. No more than one fire protection district commissioner may reside in each subdistrict. If redistricting results in two commissioners residing in the same subdistricts, they must draw lots to determine who will remain in position. County Commissioners appoint individuals to fill any vacancies resulting from the annexation and the appointed commissioners serve for the remainder of the term to which they are appointed. Certified copies of appointments of the secretary and treasure of the fire district board must be filed with the clerks of the boards of county commissioners of the affected counties and the County Treasurers in which the district is located.

Any area within the boundaries of an incorporated city may, by resolution or ordinance of the governing board, be annexed to a fire protection district.

### ***III. Consolidation of Fire Districts***

One or more fire protection districts may consolidate with each other. Consolidation requires consent of all affected fire protection district boards, and under certain circumstances, the voters of the affected districts.

If two or more fire protection district boards determine it would be advantageous to consolidate into one fire protection district, the boards must prepare a consolidation agreement, which agreement must provide:

- The name of the proposed consolidated district;
- That all debts and property of the separate districts will be transferred to the consolidated district;
- The number of commissioners, either 3 or 5, on the new board;
- That all existing commissioners will be commissioners of the consolidated district until the next scheduled election when new commissioners will be elected;
- Employees of the consolidated district shall be chosen from employees of the existing districts, who shall also retain seniority rights under existing employment contracts or agreements.

Each of the fire district boards must approve the agreement. Between 10 and 30 days after approval of the consolidation agreement, each board must also hold a public hearing. Notice of the time and place of hearing must be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the proposed consolidated district at least 5 days before the hearing. Any persons attending the hearing must be given the opportunity to support or oppose the agreement. After the hearing, each board votes to approve or reject the proposed consolidation agreement. If each board approves, the agreement becomes effective and the consolidation is effective in 30 days unless a petition of objection is filed.

Consolidation may be initiated by the fire protection district commissioners in the districts affected. An alternative is a signed petition by 10 percent of the electors residing within the districts who voted in the last general election.

## Appendix VII

### Forming a Not For Profit Fire Service Organization

A non-profit organization is a group organized for purposes other than generating profit and in which no part of the organizations income is distributed to its members, directors, or officers. Some volunteer fire departments are organized as non-profit organizations.

Many -- but not all -- non-profit corporations, depending upon their purposes, can qualify for exemption from federal corporate income taxes. The U.S. Internal Revenue Code contains more than 25 different classifications of tax-exempt groups, including professional associations, charitable organizations, civic leagues, labor unions, fraternal organizations, and social clubs, to name just a few. Depending on the category of the exemption, such groups are entitled to certain privileges and subject to certain reporting and disclosure requirements and limitations on their activities. There are also a number of reporting requirements that must be adhered to after your organization is up and running.

#### ***Incorporation as a non-profit organization:***

- Incorporation is a good idea if the group plans on being in existence for several years and has the need to raise money through grants and donations that require tax-exempt status.
- Incorporation and the process of seeking tax-exempt status can be costly and time-consuming.
- Liability of leaders and members of the corporation is limited (in other words, the individuals who control the corporation are not responsible, except in unusual situations, for the legal and financial obligations of the organization).
- There is a tax advantage for the financial donor if money is given to a tax-exempt corporation. (Tax-exempt status is defined in section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS Tax Code.) Money can, however, be legally given to any group or individual without tax-exempt status.
- Some foundations will simply not fund groups that do not have final approval from IRS of its tax-exempt application.
- Incorporation requires careful minutes of official organizational meetings and good financial record keeping.
- If the group's budget is more than \$25,000 per year, a tax return needs to be filed.
- Incorporation takes between 6 and 18 months to complete.

#### **Incorporation Process:**

- Develop clear and detailed By-laws and Articles of Incorporation
- Incorporation as a not-for-profit corporation within the state (filing with the state includes names and addresses of the first board of directors, etc.)
- File for recognition as tax-exempt with IRS

#### **Estimated Costs for Incorporation . \$2,600**

Attorney fees	\$1,000
Accountant fees	\$1,000
Incorporation fees (state)	\$ 50
Nonprofit application (IRS)	\$ 550



## Appendix IIX

### State and Federal Fire Related Codes

This section reviews the state and federal laws, policies, and organizations, which shape the responses to wildland fires that occur in Idaho.

#### *State of Idaho*

Federal law grants authority to the federal government and are not allowed to encroach on the constitutional rights afforded to states. Likewise, the state may not make laws that encroach on the powers constitutionally delegated to the federal government.

The State Board of Land Commissioners, all the state-wide elected officials, makes the rules regarding state lands while staying within the bounds of legislated law. The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is an extension of the State Board of Land Commissioners (58-101, 58-119 Idaho Code) and, as such, is required to execute the functions of the State Board.

The Idaho Code discusses the responsibility and powers of the State Fire Marshal, an agency of the State Department of Insurance. The Fire Marshal is mandated to carry out the International Fire Code, to prevent fires, to protect life, and to oversee that buildings meet the standards set forth in the International Fire Code (41-253, 41-254, 41-255 Idaho Code). The Fire Marshal is also charged with keeping statistics of all the fires in the state. The agency is authorized by legislation to “Purchase necessary equipment and supplies, and incur any other reasonable and necessary expense in connection with or required for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act.” (41-255 Idaho Code)

The State Fire Marshal’s power extends to the chief (or his deputy) of each fire department or fire protective district organized under state law. In areas where there is no organized fire department, the county sheriff assumes the role of a deputy fire marshal in carrying out the provisions of the International Fire Code, and any additional regulations set forth by the State Fire Marshal. The International Fire Code prescribes regulations consistent with “recognized good practice for the safeguarding of life and property from hazards of fire and explosion . . . in the use or occupancy of buildings or premises.” (41-253 Idaho Code)

Title 38 of the Idaho State Statutes is devoted to Forestry, Forest Products, and Stumpage Districts. Idaho code allows for agreement between the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and federal agencies for the joint exercise of powers pursuant to certain conditions (58-104 Idaho Code). Those conditions (expressed in 67-2328 Idaho Code) overlap with what the federal agencies expect as far as reaching an agreement.

The Idaho Department of Lands is an extension of the State Board of Land Commissioners and has extensive authority in its approach towards wildland fire. The department has created an extensive wildland fire attack organization through out the state. It has the ability and authority to work with other wildfire fighting resources, in the event a fire exceeds the ability of the initial attach crew,<sup>2</sup> including wildland fire resources under mutual agreements.

The department cooperates with federal and local governments in developing plans for and directing actions relating to the prevention and suppression of wildland fire in the rural areas of the

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2 More information regarding state code at the following URL:  
<http://www2.state.id.us/adm/adminrules/rules/idapa20/20index.htm>

state. The IDL State Forester has the authority to cooperate with private and public landowners, political subdivisions, private associations, and other agencies to protect forest resources on a statewide basis. At the local level, IDL Area Supervisors and Fire Wardens are empowered to make agreements with federal, city, county and rural fire department resources regarding fire management.

## **Key Points of Idaho State Policy**

- The Fire Warden of each IDL Fire Protection District takes action on all forest and range fires, regardless of land ownership, which jeopardize lands protected by the Department. In doing so, forest and range fires must meet the criteria as set forth in Title 38, Chapter 1, Idaho Code. (IDL, FMH-800: Fire Control Policy; page 2 part b)
- IDL cooperates with federal and local governments in developing plans for, and directing activities relating to, the prevention and control of wildland fires in the rural areas of the state. (IDL, Mobilization Guide; page 2 par. 2)
- The State Forester, under general supervision of the State Board of Land Commissioners, is responsible for the protection of State forest and rangeland and cooperates with landowners, political subdivisions, private associations, and other agencies in protecting other forest and rangeland resources. (IDL, Mobilization Guide; page 2, point A)
- Upon the request of the State Forester, the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management provides assistance under terms of cooperative agreements. Area Supervisors and Fire Wardens of IDL are delegated the authority to make local agreements relating to fire control matters involving USFS and BLM and other federal firefighting resources not already covered by cooperative agreements. (IDL, Mobilization Guide; page 2, point E)
- Area Supervisors and Fire Wardens are delegated the authority to make local agreements relating to fire control matters involving city, county and rural fire department resources. Agreements affecting statewide operations are coordinated through the State Fire Coordinator. (IDL, Mobilization Guide; page 3, point F)
- General guidelines for fire suppression priorities:
  1. Protection of life and property.
  2. Initial attack.
  3. Emerging fires in need of reinforcement to prevent escape.
  4. Large fires with resource values at risk.
  5. Other large fires.(IDL, Mobilization Guide; page 4)
- IDL develops and maintains mutual aid and other cooperative agreements (in writing where possible) with local and adjacent fire suppression agencies and county emergency planning committees, such as Local Emergency Planning Committees. (IDL, Mobilization Guide; page 8, point D)

The Mobilization Guide and other IDL policies and responsibilities are based on state statutory provisions found in Title 38, Chapter 1, of the Idaho Code. A review of that portion of Idaho Code shows that all “forest” and “range” land within the State of Idaho is to be under the protection of either a State Forest Protection District or a Forest Protection Association.

Forest Protection Associations are affiliated or endorsed by IDL. The associations consist of a board of landowners who own forested lands and who agree to protect their own lands using money from additional property taxes. If a forest landowner does not belong to an association then IDL will assess a tax and assume the responsibility for patrol and suppression of any fires that start on or burn through that owner's property.

Idaho's wildland fire policy has several references to the ability of the state to make agreements with federal and local government fire organizations. The agreements are to be reduced to writing whenever possible. The statutory basis for these agreements makes them legally binding documents. Within these documents, there must be specific roles and duties for each party of involved. The financial arrangements also must be thoroughly documented.

The State's personnel and equipment resources are limited to the nature of their wildland fire training. Lastly, the mobilization guide specifies that the agency provide training to its personnel using the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS is a federal system. This allows the state management teams to operate with their federal counterparts.

The responsibility of suppressing wildland fire on state lands ultimately falls to the IDL. The federal lands that intermingle with Idaho's state lands remain the responsibility of the federal government. However, with mutual aid agreements the IDL may support and work with the federal agencies, provided that the State's resource needs are being met.

The approach towards wildland fire on private forestlands in the state of Idaho is also clear. Private owners are given two choices; they can belong either to a State Forest Protective District or to a Forest Protective Association. This means that the lands are protected by the state or by a state assisted association of trained firefighters.

In the context of statutory language, "forest land" is defined as follows: any land which has upon it sufficient brush or flammable forest growth of any kind or size, living or dead, standing or down, including debris or growth following a fire or removal of forest products, to constitute a fire menace to life (including animal) or property (38-101 Idaho Code). Unfortunately, there is no mention of how a homeowner, whose property does not fit into that definition, will be treated.

The federal wildfire agencies have legal obligations only for federal lands. The state government has legal obligations to state lands, and private lands that are classified as forest or rangelands.

Rural and city fire departments act as extensions of the State Fire Marshal's office. The Fire Marshal provides training for structural and automobile fire protection, as well as medical response duties that are part of emergency services. The Fire Marshal's mission is built around preventing and then fighting structural fires only. Some fire stations have crews that are trained to fight wildland fires, but it is provided through agreements with the Idaho State Department of Lands, not the Fire Marshal's office.

## ***Federal Policy***

The Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Forest Service are all members of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). This group provides a formalized system of agreement on substantive issues. Any agreed-on policies, standards or procedures are then implemented directly by each agency. In effect, the NWCG is a large umbrella that coordinates wildland fire matters between all members of the group.

The 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy is in Chapter 3 in a report entitled "Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy." The 2001 Wildland Fire Management Policy and the recommended changes in policy were accepted by the US Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture in 2001, bringing policy changes to the local agency level.

The National Fire Policy sets the policy for support among federal agencies for fire management, and encourages coordination with the individual states, tribes, and municipalities. The National Fire Policy places high priority on several other important topics. This interagency policy highlights and reiterates firefighter and public safety as the number one priority; the policy calls for an assessment of the consequences on safety, property, and cultural resources in choosing the appropriate response to wildland fire.

The National Fire Policy explains the role of federal wildland firefighters (including equipment) as that of only wildland firefighting, and in the special case of the wildland-urban interface use of federal personnel will be limited to exterior structural fire suppression only. The national policy forbids use of wildland firefighters to enter a house (or other structure).

### **Key Features of the 2001 Wildland Fire Policy:**

The 2001 Wildland Fire Policy is the guiding source for how the federal government deals with wildland fire. The document covers a wide variety of issues: safety, protection priorities, planning for possible ignitions, and the use of fire for land management purposes; and communication and education of public and agency personnel.

The 2001 Wildland Fire Policy provides a loose framework that allows agencies at all levels of government (federal to local) to work together. Below are some listed points from the 2001 Wildland Fire Policy that briefly summarize what the document is about, and summarize what applies to the homeowner.

#### **Point 1 - Safety**

“Firefighter and public safety is the first priority. All Fire Management Plans and activities must reflect this commitment.”

#### **Point 3 - Response to Wildland Fire**

“Fire, as a critical natural process, will be integrated into land and resource management plans and activities on a landscape scale, and across agency boundaries. Response to wildland fire is based on ecological, social, and legal consequences of the fire. The circumstances, under which a fire occurs, and the likely consequences on firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and cultural resources, and values to be protected, dictate the appropriate management response to the fire.”

#### **Point 6 - Protection Priorities**

“The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection. Once people have been committed to an incident, these human resources become the highest value to be protected.”

#### **Point 7 – Wildland-Urban Interface**

“The operational roles of federal agencies as partners in the Wildland-Urban Interface are wildland firefighting, hazardous fuels reduction, cooperative prevention and education, and technical assistance. Structural fire suppression is the responsibility of tribal, State, or local governments. Federal agencies may assist with exterior structural protection activities under formal Fire Protection Agreements that specify the mutual responsibilities of the partners, including funding.”



## **Point 14 - Interagency Cooperation**

“Fire management planning, preparedness, prevention, suppression, fire use, restoration, and rehabilitation, monitoring, research, and education will be conducted on an interagency basis with the involvement of cooperators and partners.”

### **Organization**

In terms of a firefighting organization, the federal government has come to terms with the challenges of multiple agencies, multiple land ownerships, and multiple objectives. Although each agency views wildland fire differently, through the interagency approach, the federal agencies have managed to establish a strong fire management organization.

The interagency effort has come about because it is difficult for any one agency to fund enough resources to protect all of its lands. By pooling their resources and carefully coordinating their efforts, the agencies can deal with the many fires that burn every year.

On the operational end of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) is the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho. NIFC is a complex that houses all of the agencies in one place. NIFC provides safe, effective, and efficient policies and guidance, as well as technical and logistical support to the wildland fire management community.

All of the resources available on the national level are available for fire wildland fire suppression. Through a system of allocation and prioritizing, crews and resources are frequently moved around the United States to provide fire suppression services on federal lands.

The fire teams and crews ultimately carry out the wildland fire policy. These teams have the responsibility of ordering resources, asking for assistance, and for providing the fire suppression. They also determine whose land a fire is on and if it is a threat to people, to homes, or to other property.

The personnel within that fire management organization are wildland fire trained. The rules, regulations, and legal authority of the federal government are for the preservation of federally administered lands. With the exception of government compounds that have firefighters trained to deal with fires inside of buildings and other structures, federal wildland firefighters are not trained to deal with structural fires.

## Appendix IX

### Example of Mutual Aid Agreement Between Local Fire Services

#### ***Mutual Assistance Agreement***

THIS AGREEMENT is made by and between the LATAH COUNTY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #12 a political subdivision of the State of Idaho; pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act. (R.C.W. Chapter 39.34) and R.C.W. 52.08..030(3); and, the CITY OF MOSCOW, a municipal corporation of the state of Idaho, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act (R.C.W. Chapter 39.34) and Section 67-2328 of the Idaho Code by Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_ adopted on; and, the Commissioners of Whitman County Fire Protection District No. 12 at their meeting held on have approved and authorized the terms of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE,

WHEREAS, each of the parties hereto has an interest in the control of fire, fire prevention, emergency medical services, hazardous materials control, and/or other emergency support; and

WHEREAS, each of the parties owns and maintains equipment and retains personnel who are trained to provide various levels of service in the control of fire, fire prevention, emergency medical service equipment and personnel, hazardous materials control, and/or other emergency support; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a major fire, disaster or other emergency, either party may need the assistance of the other party to this Agreement to provide supplemental fire suppression, emergency medical service equipment and personnel, hazardous materials control, and/or other emergency support; and

WHEREAS, each of the parties may have the necessary equipment and personnel available to enable it to provide such services to the other party to this Agreement in the event of such a major fire, disaster, or other emergency; and

WHEREAS, the facilities of each party are located in such a manner as to enable each party to render mutual assistance to the other; and

WHEREAS, each of the parties to this Agreement has determined that it is in the best interests of each party to set forth guidelines for providing mutual assistance to each other in the case of a major fire, disaster or other emergency; now, therefore,

#### **IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. **PURPOSE** The stated purpose of the Mutual Assistance Agreement is to provide mutual assistance to the parties for control of fire, fire prevention, emergency medical services, hazardous materials control, and/or other emergency support in the event of a major fire disaster or other emergency.
2. **REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE** The Commanding Officer or Incident Commander of the party (also known as the Requesting Party) at the scene of an emergency within the

boundaries of that party's geographical jurisdiction is authorized to request assistance from the other party to this Agreement if confronted with an emergency situation at which the Requesting Party has need for equipment or personnel in excess of that available at the Requesting Party's facilities.

3. **RESPONSE TO REQUEST** Upon receipt of a request as provided for in Paragraph No. 1 of this Agreement the Commanding Officer of the party receiving the request (also known as the Responding Party) shall immediately take the following action:
  - A. Determine if the Responding Party has equipment and personnel available to respond to the request of the Requesting Party and determine the type of the equipment and number of personnel available.
  - B. Determine what available equipment and what available personnel should be dispatched in accordance with the plans and procedures established by the parties.
  - C. In the event the requested equipment and/or personnel are available, then the Commanding Officer shall dispatch such equipment and personnel to the scene of the emergency with proper operating instructions.
  - D. In the event the requested equipment and/or personnel are not available, then the Commanding Officer shall immediately advise the Requesting Party of such fact.
4. **COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY AT EMERGENCY SCENE** The incident Commander of the Requesting Party at the scene of the emergency, to which the response is made, shall be in command of the operations under which the equipment and personnel sent by the Responding Party shall serve; provided, however, that the responding equipment and personnel shall be under the immediate supervision of the officer in charge of the responding apparatus. If the Incident Commander specifically requests a senior officer of the Responding Party to assume command, then the Incident Commander shall not, by relinquishing command, be relieved of responsibility for the operation.
5. **LIABILITY** The parties agree that the Requesting Party shall assume liability for and hold the Responding Party harmless from all liabilities, which arise out of command decisions or judgments. However, each party hereto agrees to assume responsibility for liabilities arising out of the actions of its own personnel and to hold the other party hereto harmless there from as to action relating to performance under this Agreement.
6. **POST RESPONSE RESPONSIBILITY** Upon completion of the rendering of assistance, such assistance and help as is necessary will be given by the parties to locate and return any items of equipment to the fire department owning said equipment. All equipment and personnel used under the terms of this Agreement shall be returned to the Responding Party upon being released by the Requesting Party, or upon demand being made by the Responding Party for return of said equipment and personnel.
7. **COMPENSATION** Each party agrees that it will not seek from the other party compensation for services rendered under this Agreement. Each party hereto shall all times be responsible to its own employees for the payment of wages and other compensation and for carrying workmen's compensation upon said employees; and each party shall be responsible for its own equipment and shall bear the risk of loss therefore, irrespective of whether or not said personnel and equipment are being used within the area of primary

responsibility of that party. However, if the fire suppression chemicals are utilized by the Responding Party, the Requesting Party shall compensate the other party for the actual cost of such chemicals.

8. **INSURANCE** Each party agrees to maintain adequate insurance coverage for its own equipment and personnel.
9. **PER-INCIDENT PLANNING** The Commanding Officers of the parties may, from time to time, mutually establish pre-incident plans which shall indicate the types of and locations of potential problems areas where emergency assistance may be needed, the type of equipment that should be dispatched under such circumstances, the number of personnel that should be dispatched under such circumstances and the training to be conducted to ensure efficient operations. Such plans shall take into consideration the proper protection by the Responding Party of its own geographical jurisdiction. The parties hereto agree to take such steps as are feasible to standardize equipment such as couplings, hose, and apparatus, so that said equipment can be fully utilized by either of the parties hereto.
10. **SHARED PURCHASING** There shall be no joint or cooperative acquiring, holding and disposal of real or personnel property.
11. **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE** There is not hereby created any separate or legal administrative entity as might be provided by Chapter 39.34 R.C.W., or Idaho Code section 67-2328. There shall be no joint or cooperative acquiring, holding and disposing of real or personnel property as allowed in R.C.W. 39.34.030(4)(b) or Idaho Code section 67-2328(b) and each party hereto shall be responsible for and financing their separate obligations hereunder, including, if applicable, establishing and/or maintaining budgets therefore. Further, the administration of this Agreement shall be performed by each entity separately through their Commanding Officers.
12. **DOCUMENT CONTROL-EXECUTION** That a duplicate original of the Agreement shall be filed at the administrative offices of each party. Copies of the Agreement shall be filed with the Whitman County Rural Fire Protection District #12, the Moscow City Clerk, the Whitman County Auditor and the Secretary of State prior to its entry into force. Prior to this agreement becoming effective, a copy of this Agreement shall be filed with the Idaho Secretary of State, who shall require an opinion of the Idaho Attorney General that such Agreement does not violate provisions of the Constitution of the United States, the Idaho Constitution or Idaho statutes. Upon such filing requirements being accomplished, and upon such approval by the Idaho Secretary of State, this Agreement shall be effective upon execution by the parties.
13. **TERMINATION** This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect until July 1, 2006 unless sooner terminated as follows;
  - A. A party desiring to terminate this Agreement shall serve written notice upon the other party of its intention to terminate this Agreement. Such notice shall be served not less than thirty calendar days prior to the termination date set forth in said written notice. Said written notice shall automatically terminate this Agreement on the date specified therein unless rescinded prior in writing.



14. **AGREEMENT NOT EXCLUSIVE** This agreement is not intended to be exclusive as between parties hereto. Either of the parties may, as that party deems necessary or expedient, enter into a separate Mutual Assistance Agreement or Agreements with any other party or parties. Entry into such separate Agreements shall not change any relationship or covenant herein contained unless the parties hereto mutually agree in writing to such change.

This plan was developed by Northwest Management, Inc., under contract with the Washington County Commissioners and the West Central Highlands RC&D, with funding provided by the USDI Bureau of Land Management and Washington County.

**Citation of this work:**

Schlosser, W.E. *Lead Auth.* 2004. Washington County, Idaho, Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan – Main Document. Northwest Management, Inc., Moscow, Idaho. May 2004. Pp. 120.

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**Northwest Management, Inc.**  
233 East Palouse River Drive  
PO Box 9748  
Moscow ID 83843

208-883-4488 Telephone  
208-883-1098 Fax  
[NWManage@consulting-foresters.com](mailto:NWManage@consulting-foresters.com) e-Mail  
<http://www.Consulting-Foresters.com/> Internet

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